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HOMES & Gardens

A piece of Cowbridge history in Twt Park

A five-tonne memento of Cowbridge's past is now in Twt Park – a section of the 230-year-old Beech Tree (*right*) that was cut down recently for safety reasons.

Ewart Schofield of ESA Treecare told The GEM that it had attracted a great deal of interest, and that a number of councillors were interested in keeping the tree stump there.

He said that there will, of course, have to be the usual health and safety assesments made, but he was hopeful that it could remain there.

Local crafters have been invited to put forward proposals to make use of suitable sections of wood that remain after the tree was cut down.

The fungal infection that weakened the tree has, of course, made some wood unusable, but there are a number of plans that have been put forward for future uses for good quality wood.

For more information on this, go to *www.thetwtbeech.org.uk*

ABOVE: Little Martha Hughes, who is 15 months, was one of a number of children who were fascinated by the tree stump.

THE VALE'S 3.9% RISE IN COUNCIL TAX

THE Vale Council cabinet has agreed to propose an increase of 3.9 per cent in council tax for the year 2018/2019.

The proposal will be made – and debated – at next week's full council meeting where the final budget will be set.

Cllr John Thomas, the Leader of the Council, explained that although the local authority aimed to make savings of over £6m, there would still be a need to raise more revenue locally.

"With both the demand for our services and the cost of delivering them continuing to rise, the challenges of supporting those residents who rely on the council are more acute than ever.

"The Vale Council has always received one of the lowest funding settlements in Wales from the Welsh Government and we have seen a real terms cut yet again in 2018.

"This means that many of our important local services, including schools and education, are grossly underfunded compared to the rest of Wales.

"Although we aim to make savings in excess of £6.2m over the course of the next financial year, this cut still leaves us with no alternative but to look to raise revenue locally.

"We are proposing an increase of 3.9 per cent which equates to less than one pound per week for residents living in Band D properties.

"This is not a decision that has been taken lightly and I am sure it will be the subject of healthy debate at next week's meeting of full council.

"Given the inequality in the way Welsh Government funds different local authorities, with the Vale of Glamorgan having suffered from year after year of underfunding, it is, I believe the best way of balancing the need to support vital local services, such as education and social care, with our desire to keep any increase as low as possible."

Proposed council tax rates for 2018/19 are as follows:

Band A £791.28; Band F £1,714.44; Band B £923.16; Band G £1,978.20; Band C £1,055.04; Band H £2,373.84; Band D £1,186.92; Band I £2.769.48; Band E £1.450.68.

These figures will be put to a vote as part of the council's 2018/19 budget at a meeting of full council on February 28.

Former Minister comes to town

FORMER Government minister Pritti Patel visited Cowbridge last weekend on a whistlestop tour of south Wales.

She also visited Porthcawl Comprehensive School and had engagements in Cardiff.

In Cowbridge, she was welcomed by the local branch of the Welsh Conservatives.

For full details on the visit, and another photograph by Mike Wilcock, please turn to page 3.

LEFT: Duncan Barber, Alun Cairns, Pritti Patel and Jane Burrows.
PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK

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Readers' Letters

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Politicians need to stand up for Barry'

I WISH to reply to your unnamed correspondent in the letters page of February 15 and counter some of his or her assertions which appear to be made in defence of Aviva/Biomass.

As the gasification plant on Barry docks is described as 'novel technology' this would mean it is not proven technology, and therefore not the best available technology.

If your unnamed defender of this plant has worked on many plants how many are operating successfully?

Avonmouth and two at Teeside are either closed or not operating at expected capacity and some investors are pulling out.

Heating wood to leave ash that needs a chimney to take away emissions is 'incineration' in most people's vocabulary.

High temperatures may remove some pollutants, identified by the writer as potassium and chloride, but that by implication leaves many more polluting chemicals to be dealt with or pumped into the atmosphere.

Chromium (VI) and arsenic have no limits set by NRW. These pollutants come from burning treated wood such as fence panels. These chemicals cause lung disease.

Ash/slag contain heavy metals: the NRW permit states this ash has no recipient.

The Biomass plant in Hull applied to burn waste wood; once operational, within six months, the licence was changed to burn RDF (refuse derived fuels) rubbish to you and me. It brings, as the anonymous writer describes, 'smells and pest infestation.'

Can Aviva/Biomass be trusted to keep to the wood fuel supply and not switch it once it is operational?

This Aviva/Biomass plant is built on a flood plain, again spelling a potential environmental disaster.

Yes, people of Barry pollute by going about their everyday business. Yes, the people of Barry live in one of the most polluted parts of Wales. Yes, Castleland ward is deprived and has chest and respiratory health problems.

Is that a reason to make things worse? I think not. We all, especially our children with developing lungs, deserve cleaner air and a better start than previous generations of Barry.

Finally, politicians need to stand up for their electorate. That is not populist but democracy.

Paul Robertson, Barry.

'Remaining in customs union is a mystery'

IT became fashionable to describe Brexiteers as inward-looking isolationists, with pulling-up of drawbridges and so on, compared presumably with an outward-looking EU.

Yet the reverse is actually the case, as is demonstrated so aptly by the current furore over the so-called 'hard border' between UK Northern Ireland and EU Southern Ireland.

The EU is afraid that the UK, free of the customs union, might reduce tariffs on goods from other countries and that these cheaper goods would leak across the border into the EU, thus destroying its protection against the rest of the world.

Labour MP Graham Stringer has said: "The EU customs regime imposes tariffs on food imports ensuring we pay 20 per cent more than the price on the open world market. We are essentially exporting poverty to Africa and some of the poorest parts of the globe."

Apparently, Labour PM Clement Attlee took the same view after the war. Since clothing and footwear are treated similarly, it remains a mystery why some in Labour, of all parties, want to stay in a customs union.

Does it occur to the EU that by exporting poverty in this way it may be encouraging uncontrollable immigration from Africa? The words 'hoist' and 'petard' come to mind.

The counter argument is that the EU would seek to restrict imports from the UK. Yet China seems to have no problems selling to the EU, so this could only be through spite or fear that other countries, seeing a successful UK, would also want to leave.

As has been said many times, what sort of club is it that has to use threats to keep its membership on board?

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge.

'Dangerous parking in Barry a huge problem'

IT has become increasingly obvious that illegal and dangerous parking in and around Barry has become a huge problem.

I gather that Civil Enforcement Officers patrol various areas of the county on a daily basis, usually concentrating on the areas that need the most improvement in terms of parking compliance.

While the town centre seems to occupy most of their attention, it does seem that there are many other danger spots which appear to be largely ignored.

Has anybody tried to navigate Barry Road, particularly when the post office is in full swing? Cars are regularly illegally parked on double yellow lines or even on the pavement.

Romilly Primary School is another example of regular thoughtless and illegal parking, usually by parents picking up their children and being situated on a busy roundabout is an added danger.

Having often witnessed cars parked across the entrance to Sainsbury's supermarket creating absolute mayhem, it only seems a matter of time before a tragic accident happens.

While it is impossible to monitor the entire area, both of the locations mentioned can't have gone unnoticed and I am therefore wondering what measures can be applied to reduce the risk to both pedestrians and motorists alike.

Rob Taylor, Barry.

BIOMASS SHOULD HAVE HELD A PUBLIC MEETING

I AM totally in agreement with the letter last week by Mr Delaney.

I have heard so many times that people lack faith and confidence in the whole process of the Biomass application from planning to permitting. This I am sure is much to do with the fact that neither the owners, operators nor NRW have held a public meeting at which they communicate face to face with the people who will be most affected by living near an incinerator.

If they have faith in the technology and believe that it is of benefit, then why would they be unwilling to meet with the public and put their case?

Why would they not want to put people's concerns to rest? Is it that they are unable to make a good case in favour of the technology?

Or that they just don't care about people's concerns?

Cheryl Dobbinson, Barry.

Incinerator is a 'ticking timebomb'

THE people of Barry deserved better. We have been treated with contempt!

The biomass incinerator has been given the all clear, after so much protest, to pollute the air we breathe.

Adding to the mix will be Hinkley Point's radioactive silt offload into the Channel.

Then there's the concoction just waiting to seep out from the sealed up No.1 dock, which is soon to become a children's play park, next to the new development on Cory Way (allocated affordable housing for those who have no option but to live there), not forgetting the established Dow Corning site nearby.

Beautiful Barry is no more – it is a dumping ground and a ticking timebomb for the future of those who have the misfortune to live here.

T Abery, Barry.

Conservative Leader welcomes Minister's 'step in right direction'

SOUTH Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has welcomed the Welsh Government's announcement that it intends to insist an Environmental Impact Assessment be carried out on the controversial incinerator at Barry Docks.

Speaking in the Senedd, Minister for Environment Hannah Blythyn last week announced that she has informed the developer she is "minded" to direct that an EIA must accompany the latest planning application before the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

This is, however, subject to representations made by the developer.

Mr Davies – who has long campaigned against the incinerator – described the news as a "step in the right direction" – but stressed that nothing could be taken for granted yet.

He vowed to continue to hold Ministers to account to ensure that an EIA would be made a requirement.

Mr Davies said, "Residents are rightly concerned about the impacts the incinerator at Barry Docks will have – which in my view is in a wholly unsuitable site.

"It has been frustrating that Ministers have so far failed to intervene – and I welcome the fact this seems to be changing.

"It is positive news that the Minister is minded to insist on an EIA – but we must remember that at this stage it is just that.

"There is still some scope to backtrack – so we must keep up the pressure to ensure this actually goes ahead.

"I will continue to hold Ministers to account as we all look to stand up for Barry."

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HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 1)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
22 Thur	10.21	9.0	22.49	8.7
23 Fri	11.20	8.6	23.47	8.3
24 Sat			12.29	8.1
25 Sun	01.08	8.0	13.53	7.9
26 Mon	02.36	8.2	15.22	8.4
27 Tues	03.57	8.5	16.31	8.8
28 Wed	04.59	9.3	17.29	9.5
01 Thur	05.53	9.9	18.22	10.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Vale Council says 'need to recycle more' could see it follow Bridgend

THE Vale Council is considering following its neighbouring council Bridgend (BCBC) and asking householders to separate more of their household recycling – and also limit the number of black landfill bags.

At present, the Vale Council operates a 'co-mingling' system, but a change will be considered at a cabinet meeting this Monday (February 19).

BCBC changed its system last year, in April. The change-over to a more comprehensive regime sparked a storm of protest, and a number of councillors and residents are still unhappy with the system.

The Vale Council says the proposed change is driven by the need to increase recycling levels and cut costs. The council hopes to qualify for a Welsh Government grant to help pay for the changeover.

At the moment, the recyclable materials collected by the Vale Council – glass, paper, tins and plastic – are simply transported to a re-processor in the north of England. The council receives no money at all for this material.

If the cabinet says yes, then a consultation will begin on how best to introduce the changes, with the new measures due to come into effect from September.

Cllr Geoff Cox, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport, said: "The council must change the way in which we collect residents' waste and recycling in order to bring our service into line with changes to the law, and more importantly, make it economically and environmentally sustainable.

"The changes I propose have been determined following a thorough evaluation of all the potential options and are subject to the Council receiving a substantial capital grant from Welsh Government to assist with infrastructure costs.

"How we go about implementing them, however, will be decided based on the views of residents. As a county we have been set a challenging target by Welsh Government of recycling 70 per cent of the Vale's waste by 2025.

"We can only achieve this if more residents than ever are willing to play their role in recycling and we will soon be launching a public awareness campaign to inform residents of the changes and why we must all work together to make them a success."

The glass, paper, tins and plastic collected in the Vale is not recycled by the council but rather sold by a re-processing contractor based in the north of England to private companies throughout the world.

Due to the processing and travel costs involved the council receives no income for the material. Separated collections will result in much lower levels of contamination and in turn a higher sale price for the material.

The council will also be able to find its own markets due to the higher value of the material and will seek to find these markets as close to the Vale as possible.

Alongside the changes to collections the Council intends to build a new waste transfer station within the Vale where recyclable material can be stored before it is sold.

A Vale Council sokesman said: "The significant reduction in the costs of transporting recyclable material along with the higher sale price are predicted to result in savings to the council of around £400,000 each year.

"As well as bringing the service into line with recent legislation, the move away from co-mingled collection also qualifies the council for significant financial support from Welsh Government."

VITAL CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO OUR WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE

I WROTE to all residents in 2011 to explain the reasons for moving from a 'source separated kerbside recycling collection service' in which different materials were collected over a two-week period, to a 'weekly co-mingled collection service' where all materials could be mixed and collected on a weekly basis.

At the time we said that the recycling and waste collection arrangements would have to be kept under review to ensure that they remained sustainable, met Welsh Government objectives and the National Waste Strategy.

We also explained that world markets for recycling would need to be monitored to establish if certain materials needed to be collected separately in the future to protect their value.

A lot has changed since 2011. We are no longer one of the best performing counties for recycling and our recycling reprocessing costs for our co-mingled materials is increasing due to a fall in the resale value of what we collect.

Crucially, in 2015, legislation came into force requiring local authorities to *'set up separate collections of waste…for at least paper, metal, plastic and glass'*.

Since then, the Welsh Government has provided help in assessing our compliance with the new legislation and also the National Waste Policy by reviewing and reporting on our waste options.

This week I presented a report produced by their partners, Waste Resource Action Programme. It detailed the outcomes of this process and the changes to our waste and recycling service that I believe are required to enable us to better manage our future waste costs and to remain within current legislation.

The changes will also help us reach the 70 per cent recycling target for 2024/25 that we must achieve to avoid Welsh Government fines.

The changes will be subject to public consultation prior to implementation, but I am recommending a move to 'source separated weekly dry recycling collections' later this year.

This is, however, subject to the council receiving funding from the Welsh Government to assist with the change in collection vehicles and the building of a new waste transfer station.

It should be noted that this funding is only available for councils that move towards separate kerbside collections of dry recycling, as this complies with the Welsh Government 'blueprint' for collections and current National Waste Policy.

We estimate that these changes would save the council around £400k each year. The service would use plastic boxes and blue bags.

I am also proposing a limit to the number of black bags that can be placed out for collection, like many other councils in Wales currently have in place, to try and encourage increased recycling.

Concessions will be offered for large families and those with specific needs, such as a requirement to dispose of sanitary products. This is one of the factors that will be considered as part of the public consultation process.

Food waste collections will remain the same.

by Cllr Geoff Cox, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

I appreciate that what is being suggested is a major service change that will affect every resident, yet I believe it is a necessary change at this time, as I did when we last implemented major changes to this service in 2011.

I need the cooperation and understanding of all our residents as we move into this challenging time for waste management in Wales.

We will, of course, provide every support as we progress with these changes and I look forward to the Vale once again leading the way in Wales in this most important service area.

Former Cabinet Minister in visit to Cowbridge

VALE Conservatives welcomed former cabinet minister Pritti Patel to an event organised by the Cowbridge branch.

Ms Patel, accompanied by her husband Alex and nine-year-old son Freddy, attended a coffee morning and brunch held at the home of local branch chairman Jane Burrows and her partner Duncan Barber.

Also present was Vale MP Alun Cairns, who originally invited Ms Patel to pay a visit to south Wales.

Ms Patel also spoke to party members in Bridgend and Pontypridd as part of her mini tour.

Mr Cairns said: "She has just visited the Wales-India Centre in Cardiff where she was welcomed as a hero.

"She is the first woman from that heritage to sit in the British cabinet. She has broken many glass ceilings and was in charge of the Department for International Development, where she was responsible for a large budget in a very politically important role."

Ms Patel said she had received an amazing welcome to Wales and to the Vale.

She said: "The UK through its international development role has the chance to be a force for good in the world.

"As a committed Brexiteer, I am confident that we have a fantastic opportunity ahead of us as we leave the EU."

WI ARE TOLD OF MURDER MOST FOUL IN COWBRIDGE

AT the last meeting Llanblethian WI were entertained by local historian, Don Gerard.

He told the story of the murder of David Thomas, a local landowner, on October 10, 1885. A popular man also known as the 'Yankee' as he had spent some time in Pennsylvania.

David Thomas had returned from the market in Treorchy on this day and was drinking in local establishments where he met three members of the Roberts family. Mr Thomas boasted that he had in excess of £500 in his pocket from his fruitful day at the market. Mr Thomas walked home and apparently parted company with the three men, but on his way home to Stallcourt he was to meet a violent end on Mount Ida.

The money was later recovered in the Roberts' cottage and David Roberts pleaded guilty to the murder. He was executed in Cardiff jail on March 2, 1886 in what proved to be rather gruesome circumstances.

All in all, a tale not for the faint hearted.

LM

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ANOTHER YEAR AND MORE NOMINATIONS

Catherine Hartland states: *'I am very proud of the team we have here at Newbolds. I believe the awards give credence to the fact that you do not have to work in a large city, with prestigious offices (charging the high fees that go with that), to offer clients the very best service. Having a branch in Barry and being local to the Vale makes me especially proud of our achievements'.*

The Barry office is based at 110 High Street and you can call their offices on 01446 700693. Their web site is being relaunched in March 2018 and its aim will be to make clients' lives easier to navigate and provide regular legal updates.

A musical evening for Women's Fellowship

IN a warm and brightly lit church hall in Llanblethian, The Old Spice Barbershop Quartet entertained the Women's Fellowship Group members with an evening of musical fun.

Wearing their brightly coloured waistcoats, sporting their straw hats and through their innate musicality, they transformed a cold and dark February evening into a bright and cheerful musical treat.

Apart from being a lot of fun, members were treated to a gentle education in how their Barber shop harmonies are achieved, together with the history surrounding the wide variety of musical numbers they performed.

These included 'Yesterday' by The Beatles, 'Bourree for Bach' and more traditional songs such as 'Lulu's Back in Town'.

In the intermission everyone enjoyed a natter and a 'Bring and Share' supper and the evening included some blatant cheating in the musical quiz item!

It was a thoroughly entertaining evening that chased away the winter blues.

If you would like to come along and enjoy a varied programme of activities and events, the group meets in the church hall, Llanblethian on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

Contact Hazel Coates on 01443 226412 or Georgina Magney on 01446 774335 for further information.

The Old Spice Barbershop Quartet entertained Women's Fellowship members recently.

A FRENCH FLAVOUR FOR YSTRADOWEN WI

THE speaker for Ystradowen WI's February meeting was Clare Gunning, who in addition to her role as a WI advisor, gave an unusual insight into her teenage years.

A curiosity for all things French led her to spend a year of her university degree course in the small town of Altkirch in France, close to the German border.

For the first two months, she spoke hardly any English because no-one in the town spoke her language. But this was to be to her advantage in that she returned to Wales able to speak native French, and with an appreciation of the wines of Alsace!

It gave members an entertaining insight into the value of travel and the use of a second language.

The evening continued with the usual tea and delicious cakes, followed by announcements which included a proposed visit to Llanelli House in March.

Members also heard about a literary lunch in Porthcawl in March, and a Health Awareness Day in April.

The group was informed that they could also walk the Penyfan Challenge, but it would probably require a robust constitution and a pair of stout walking boots.

The preferred subject seemed to be the North Cornelly Show in July with the slogan 'Shop Till You Drop'.

GB

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'DON'T PUNISH ORDINARY PEOPLE OVER RUBBISH COLLECTIONS' SAYS PLAID

PLAID Cymru have claimed that a Vale black bin bag limit could lead to filthy streets.

The Conservative-run Vale Council plans to introduce a two black bag limit on households from September 2018, as part of their fortnightly collection.

Plaid Cymru's Cllr Ian Johnson warned that this will increase fly tipping and dumping and doesn't tackle the problem of over-packaging that leads to waste, or the small number of households who don't recycle and therefore create extra black bag rubbish.

He said: "It would be great if households only had two black bags of rubbish per fortnight, but the reality is that the numbers vary according to the time of year and the size of family.

"Will the council be fining families because they've put out too much rubbish at Christmas, after a birthday party or because of extra waste caused by nappies or pets?

"According to the analysis conducted for the council, the average household uses three black bags per collection, but some have between 10 and 20.

"It's clear that these specific households are the problem and should be educated accordingly.

"We shouldn't expect the council to be punishing ordinary people. It all feels a bit Big Brother.

"The amount of un-necessary packaging is the real problem. Bananas and so on come self-wrapped, so we don't need extra plastic rubbish from the supermarkets."

Cllr Millie Collins added: "I am worried that families will be fined for putting out too many bags, and these plans will lead to more fly-tipping and dumping.

"This will make back lanes or streets dirty and smelly when bags are inevitably ripped open by seagulls or other animals."

See the Vale Council's view on this on page 3.

Fascinating facts about Venice at Cowbridge U3A

FOR the second time in five months, Geoff Henderson came to the rescue of Cowbridge U3A recently after the booked speaker was forced to withdraw at short notice.

On this occasion, his illustrated presentation was on the history of Venice, well-known for its canals and gondolas.

The photogenic city attracts over 20 million visitors a year, many drawn by the annual Carnevale (possibly 3.2 million tourists), which started in 1162. The carnival was actually outlawed in 1797, being too associated with sexual pleasure (and the accompanying venereal diseases), but returned in 1979.

Venice consists of about 120 islands and has 150 canals, 118 churches and 438 bridges (give or take one or two of each).

It is said that a visitor transported from 1730 to the modern city would not, at first glance, notice many changes.

Venice elected its first Doge in AD697 and the last Doge was deposed in 1797, the year Napoleon conquered Venice. There have been 120 Doges in all, some good, some bad, but always elected. The Doge's palace is apparently based on a mosque in Damascus.

In AD828, Venice acquired the bones, reputedly, of St Mark the Evangelist and a church was constructed to house them. The present-day St Mark's Basilica was consecrated at the end of the 11th century.

Like all Venetian buildings, the church stands on wooden piles (over a million in this case), driven deep into the earth below the low water mark.

As long as the timbers remain immersed in water there are no problems, but exposure to both water and air causes the wood to rot.

Very low tides can be as much a problem as the well-known periodic flooding suffered by Venice. The sight of St Mark's Square under water occurs much more frequently than it did 20 years ago.

Barrages that can prevent inundations from the sea are being installed to protect the lagoon.

As a city founded on trade, Venice has been at the head of innovation and invention. Private banks, Roman and Italic font typefaces, painting on canvas and, of course, gondolas all had their origins there. Glass making appeared in the early 10th century.

The first ghetto in Europe was established in 1516 in Venice; Jews were not persecuted, but were forced to live in a restricted area of the city, behind gates locked from dusk to dawn.

As a result, with space being so limited, buildings could only go upwards: hence the ghetto has some of the tallest structures in Venice. Five synagogues can be found there today.

Venice differs from most urban areas in that everything has to be moved in and out by boat, even the rubbish. The infrastructure of water and sewage pipes and electrical cabling is contained mainly within the canals.

The gondola is the iconic image of Venice. There were probably 8 to 10,000 in the 18th century, but only about 400 now. A new boat must, by law, be black, costs £20,000, weighs ¾ of a ton and will last about 30 years.

A gondola is longer on one side than the other, which is why it can be propelled by an oar on one side only. Contrary to popular belief the vessel is never poled like a punt, as the waters are too deep.

Elaborately designed letter boxes, typically a lion with an open mouth, can be seen around Venice. These were never designed for normal mail deliveries but to receive anonymous denunciations of Venetian citizens for secular or religious offences (not paying tax, blasphemy or adultery). As a guarantee against false reporting, investigations were always undertaken carefully and in detail.

Venice's main problem now is that there are too many tourists and too few Venetians (probably only 50,000).

As the local population dwindles, mega-cruise ships, dwarfing the port and endangering the environment of the city and its lagoon, spew tourists by the tens of thousands onto the narrow streets and canals. Four out of five visitors spend only a day in Venice and contribute little to the city's economy.

In 2016, the city was covered with flyers bearing a message from the frustrated residents to the masses of visitors: 'Tourists Go Away.'

Nearly 10 years ago, this author's brother did his best to assist the Venetian economy. Presented with a bill of 27 euros for three coffees (about £6.50 each) in a café in St Mark's Square, he gave the delighted waiter a 50 euro note and told him to keep the change. When informed of the size of tip he'd just given, my brother went as white as a sheet! **SPM**

BONT FAEN WI REPORT

THE February meeting took us on a journey to Turkey. Karen Lovell gave a very descriptive and colourful view of her life there.

She fell in love with the people and country; it enthused our members to move away from the tourist resorts and see the real Turkey. She provided us with some beautiful, authentic Turkish food, which was very well received.

Following a refreshment break with cakes provided by Christine and Moira we settled down to our business meeting.

Future social events were unveiled, a trip to the Cowbridge cinema next month and a trip to see *Wicked* in the autumn in Cardiff.

The federation newsletter was circulated and events highlighted. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 15 when Lakeland will be demonstrating kitchen equipment.

You are very welcome to come along and join us and meet new and old friends.

Jacqueline Jones

Pupil left on school bus in Penarth

AN investigation is under way after a Penarth pupil with Down's syndrome failed to arrive home and was found on a bus at the depot.

The incident happened last month. A spokesman for the Vale Council said the contract with the transport provider had been terminated.

David Davies, head of Achievement for All, said: "We are very sorry for the impact that this incident has had on the pupil and their family.

"This incident was an unacceptable failure on the part of the private transport provider and their contract for transporting this pupil was terminated with immediate effect.

"An investigation into the incident is now taking place in line with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures and appropriate action will be taken following its conclusion.

"While the investigation is still ongoing it is clear that no fault at all lies with the school, where staff acted swiftly to support the parents as soon as it became apparent that the pupil had not been returned home.

"Staff at the school are now providing counselling to this individual pupil.

Mr Davies added: "Enhanced training for all contracted SEN pupil transport providers will be delivered during the next two weeks."

DEFIBRILLATOR STOLEN FROM RAILWAY STATION

A VITAL piece of lifesaving equipment has been stolen from Bridgend Railway Station.

The theft of the defibrillator took place some time between February 7 and February 9 from its site on Platform 2 of the station.

Witnesses or anyone who has any information concerning the theft are urged to contact the British Transport Police.

The public access defibrillator has played a crucial part in keeping people safe and some months ago was used to help save the life of a man who had collapsed a short distance from the station.

Bridgend is Wales' fifth busiest station and in 2016/17 it saw more than 1.5 million people passing through it.

Sgt Stephen Dawkins of the BTP said: "This was a mindless theft of emergency lifesaving equipment which could be crucial to saving lives.

"The fact it did save a life not so long ago is testament to just what an important part it plays, not just on the station, but in the community too.

"If you do know anything at all about this theft, please contact the BTP on 0800 40 50 40."

Thomas Owens, who manages Bridgend station for Arriva Trains Wales added: "The defibrillator is key to saving lives. We know that if you suffer a heart attack, getting medical attention quickly is crucial, so we were all bitterly disappointed at this theft and would call on anyone who might know something to contact the BTP."

January's photographic jewels at Vale photo club

THE Vale Photographic Club's start to the new year has been very busy and exciting, with something for everyone.

The club's first-ever half day taster for those new to digital photography was held on January 12 and was a fantastic success.

Seventeen photographic 'newcomers' enjoyed group discussions and photographic practicals with about the same number of club members helping. We had excellent feedback from the visitors, some of whom have now become members!

January has also seen our annual exhibition of members' prints in the Old Hall in Cowbridge – coordinated expertly by Gerald Harbour.

Our regular Friday club nights have seen some superb talks by members: Mick Rogers on the subject of locomotive and railway photography, Peter Dennis with an historical view of photography through several generations and Patrick Davies reprising his recent photographic journey through Iran.

Image by Mick Rogers.

Image by Patrick Davies.

Our annual competition for a set of three prints that go together in harmony was won by Mike Baker with images of a tree landscape taken during three different seasons.

At the beginning of February, members enjoyed the annual dinner, organised brilliantly by Nick Thornton at the Market Place restaurant in Cowbridge.

For information on the club, see http://www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk. We meet on Fridays at 7.15pm in Ystradowen Village Hall.

NICK CRADDOCK

College on shortlist for apprentice award

BRIDGEND COLLEGE is in the running for another award this year in the AAC Apprenticeships Award 2018.

FE Week and AELP will launch the inaugural awards at the next annual Apprenticeship Conference in Birmingham on March 22.

There are six categories that make up the award, with Bridgend College shortlisted regionally, as well as nationally for the 'Apprenticeship Provider of the Year' category.

The regional winners will be announced at a parliamentary reception.

Each regional winner will attend the main event at the annual conference at the end of March, where the overall national winners will be awarded.

Matt Williams, director of apprenticeships and work-based learning at Bridgend College, said: "We are extremely proud to be one of three institutions flying the flag for Wales at the AAC UK Awards next month".

Visit the college's website for a full list of apprenticeship courses they offer at http://www1.bridgend.ac.uk/apprenticeships/.

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Tractor Boys of Aberthin give cheques to charities

Billy handing over the cheque to Bethan Palfrey of Parkinson's UK.

THE Tractor Boys of Aberthin held a presentation evening at the Farmers Arms, Aberthin on January 29.

The main event of the evening was the presentation by Billy George on behalf of the Tractor Boys of Aberthin, of two cheques for an amount of £1,000 each. The beneficiaries of the cheques were Alzheimer's Research UK and Parkinson's UK.

The cheques were gladly received by both organisations, who were delighted with the amount raised.

The money was raised as the result of a tractor run organised by John Gray and Graham Ponsford last October in memory of Billy George's wife, Kay, who died in March 2016 after battling a long illness (Lewy Body Disease, which is a combination of both Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's).

The run was well organised and strongly supported by the local community, family and friends, resulting in the fantastic amount of £2,000 being raised.

Auctions and raffles were held prior to the run at Llest Farm, Llantwit Fardre which served as the starting and ending point of the fundraising event. This helped boost the amount of money raised significantly.

There were 34 tractors in total participating in the run, which took place around the Pontypridd area on October 8, a fine and sunny Sunday. The run took in the fantastic mountain scenery of the surrounding region and included passage through Taff Street in Pontypridd, before moving on to Eglwysilan where we marvelled at the views, before a well earned comfort stop at the Rose and Crown.

Many thanks to John Gray for organising the run, to those who provided raffle prizes and auction items and to all those who participated in the run and made donations.

A big thank you also to Billy and his family for providing excellent hospitality at Llest Farm, both before and after the event. The cider that they produce there, I can highly recommend.

The Tractor Boys of Aberthin have raised over £28,000 for good causes during the last seven years.

SRD

LOCAL BARBER AIMS FOR BRITISH CROWN

A DINAS Powys barber has made it to the shortlist of a nationwide competition to be crowned the very best wet shaving barber in Great Britain.

Sean Sweeney, from Sweeney's Barbershop at 5 Castle Court, will face razor sharp competition from fellow craftsmen near and far in his quest to win the competition.

The 35-year-old is set to face-off against other top barbers in the Welsh regional final of 'Britain's Best Shave 2018' at James William Barbershop in Neath on Sunday, March 18.

If he secures the top spot in the regional heat, Sean will face the most crucial shave of his life at the national final, which will take place inside a boxing ring at Barber UK at the Birmingham NEC on Sunday, May 20.

Sean demonstrating his skills at a recent event.

Sean is a previous Welsh champion, winning in 2015 and 2016, and is now returning to try and reclaim his crown.

He said: "The wet shave has become more and more popular the last few years. I've been practicing more than ever so that I can come back and claim the title.

"I'm excited to be competing in the regional heats for Britain's Best Shave once again, and I can't wait to meet the other contestants."

Councillor says: 'Make a stand against incinerator'

A Barry councillor will urge fellow Vale councillors to take a collective stand in opposition to the incinerator next week.

Cllr Vincent Bailey (Dyfan Ward) has tabled a motion for the full Vale Council noting "with concern" Natural Resources Wales' decision to grant a permit to operate the Biomass UK No 2 Ltd facility in Barry. The motion is to be seconded by Cllr Christine Cave.

The motion also calls on the Vale Council to criticise NRW's decision not to demand an 'Environmental Impact Assessment' before taking a decision; and calls for proper independent monitoring to be undertaken.

Cllr Bailey, who opposes the incinerator, said he wanted councillors of all parties to "take a side" on the controversial application, and to send a firm message to NRW and the Welsh Government that the public do not want the plant in Barry.

He said:"We need to take a side on this application, so that the public know that the council is truly speaking for them and acting on their behalf.

"The decision to grant a licence was deeply disappointing, and the Welsh Government will ultimately be held to account for it."

He claimed: "There are signs that the Labour Government is cracking under pressure from the Docks Incinerator Action Group and we need to press home the point that Barry residents cannot be exposed to extra pollution without a proper environmental assessment having taken place.

"Ultimately, I still believe that we can stop this in its tracks and I sincerely hope that councillors of all parties will support our motion and send a message to Biomass and NRW that the Vale speaks as one on the incinerator."

PLAY GOLF FOR KPC!

KPC Youth and Community are holding their 20th annual Charity Golf Day on Friday, June 22 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

Team entry for teams of four is £160 per team (or take advantage of our Early Bird offer of just £140 if paid by end of April 2018).

Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf and entry into a golf prize competition.

Come along for a great day's golf and the chance to support a local charity.

Sponsorship is also sought for raffle/auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole.

For team entry forms or more details, contact Alison on 01656 749219 or visit kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

Probus Club celebrates 20th anniversary

VALE Probus Club celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and at the ladies luncheon held at the Bear Hotel on February 6, a sum of £403 was collected for this year's nominated charity, the Bridgend 'Sing with Us' Tenovus Cancer Care Choir.

Probus members and their wives/partners were treated to a six-song set from the choir to round off a memorable afternoon.

The Vale Probus Club is for retired professionals who meet on a monthly basis at the Bear Hotel. New members are always welcome and can contact Barry Hitchcock on 01446 792307 for more details.

Hearing aid help

A SERVICE for deaf and hard of hearing people in Bridgend has been launched by Action on Hearing Loss Cymru.

The Hear to Help service will enable people to receive free NHS hearing aid repairs and maintenance in local libraries, community centres and through home visits. This will be provided by volunteers trained by local audiology departments – many of whom will be hearing aid users themselves.

The service has monthly clinics running in Pencoed and the charity is looking for new volunteers to expand the service into more areas.

The clinic runs at Pencoed Library, 54 Penybont Road, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 5RA on the third Monday of every month (2pm-4pm) and starts on March 19.

For more information on clinics or volunteering, visit actiononhearingloss.org.uk/wales.

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Barry man's Ushakov honour

Mr David Simpson with the Medal of Ushakov.

THE Medal of Ushakov was awarded to Mr David Simpson at a ceremony in Barry on February 10.

Mr Simpson received the honour from the Russian Federation for his participation in vital supply convoys during World War Two.

The Arctic Convoys became a byword for heroism as Allied seaman delivered essential supplies to the Soviet Union's northern ports, combating freezing conditions and treacherous seas.

Southerndown WI learn the benefits of counselling

THERE was a very good turn out at the February meeting of Southerndown WI with several visitors – hopefully they'll be back as full members next month!

President Lyn welcomed everyone and Chris gave members the travel details for the trip to the opera. Pam reminded everyone of the groups that take place regularly – darts, book group, craft group and walking group.

The speaker for the evening, Sheila Stephens, gave a talk on counselling. Sheila had been involved in counselling since the 1980s and she explained the training and accreditation process.

Counselling has developed gradually since the days of Sigmund Freud to the current day when 'Mindfulness and Cognitive Behavioural Therapies' are popular concepts for coping with depression or anxiety.

It was interesting to hear how neurological research has demonstrated that counselling has a direct and positive impact on the brain.

Our feelings and emotions are located in one part of the brain but research has shown that guided discussion of the feelings moves them to a different part of the brain where they can be considered by more rational thought.

Sheila told how people often will be counselled for grief and explained how it can be experienced for many situations in life, such as following major surgery, when friendships come to an end and sometimes if we choose to move to a different location to start a new life.

Sheila ended her talk with a quote from a speech given by Prince William during the launch of the charity, Heads Together, emphasising the importance of talking and how it can change lives. Sheila definitely gave everyone some food for thought.

The coffee morning this month is at Lyn's home on February 22 from 10.30am and the next meeting takes place on Thursday, March 8 at 7.15pm in St Brides Major Church Hall on Southerndown Road – all are welcome. **PM**

Improvement is noted at Parc's young persons' unit

THE Young Persons' Unit at HMP & YOI Parc near Bridgend in South Wales has shown "quite significant improvement" in key aspects, including safety, in the past year, inspectors found.

Peter Clarke, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons said Parc had often received positive inspection results and he welcomed work by the management to turn around a deterioration in standards at the previous inspection in December 2016.

Parc held 43 boys up to the age of 18 at the time of the most recent inspection in October 2017. Publishing a report on the inspection, Mr Clarke said: "At our last visit we were disappointed to see some deterioration, with the institution becoming less safe and less respectful.

"At this inspection, however, it was clear to us that with good leadership and a re-energised staff group, deterioration had been arrested and indeed quite significant improvement was evident."

Safety is a key challenge in all institutions for young people and recorded violence at the Parc unit, although falling, remained too high – though most incidents were low level. Linked to this, the unit needed to address boys' poor perceptions of safety and victimisation.

Nearly two-thirds of boys said they had been victimised by other boys. Despite this, inspection evidence "clearly indicated improvement in most aspects of safety," Mr Clarke said.

Boys were well received and correctly inducted into the unit, safeguarding and child protection procedures were more rigorous and the care for those at risk of self-harm was much better.

Staff were supervising boys with much greater confidence. Behaviour management arrangements had been properly reviewed and now had a greater emphasis on motivation than sanctions. Security was proportionate and use of force was better managed.

Boys had good amounts of time out of their cells, with improved education and activities, and could eat communally in an ordered atmosphere, although few liked the food. The Parc unit was also cleaner.

There was a greater level of consultation with boys. However, more needed to be done to promote equality, which remained weak.

Mr Clarke said: "This is a good report. It was encouraging to see many of our previous recommendations attended to, which was to the great credit of the director and her staff, who had clearly worked very hard.

"Some very creative and caring approaches were seen in the work we inspected and we cited several examples of good practice. Staff were well trained, committed and confident, and it was clear to us that a firm platform for yet further progress was in place."

Michael Spurr, Chief Executive of HM Prison & Probation Service, said: "Parc has significantly improved the services it provides for young people, which is a credit to the director and her team.

"The challenges presented by the young people are considerable but there is a clear strategy in place to tackle violence and provide positive opportunities for change, which is commendable."

St Nicholas WI round-up

THE recent meeting of St Nicholas WI opened with an entertaining talk on garden bird watching by Anthony Walton, illustrated by his photographs.

A one-time blogger and volunteer for RSPB Cymru, Anthony gave us some fascinating facts about the habits and intelligence of the birds that visit our gardens every day, from the dreaded sparrowhawk to the friendly robin.

After minutes of the last meeting and reports were read, it was noted that a craft group will meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm in the school room of Trehill Presbyterian Church, starting on March 15.

It was agreed that St Nicholas WI would support an afternoon tea in aid of the Denman College Appeal, joining with other WIs including Highlight Park WI from Barry on March 1.

There was considerable interest in the ACWW project to help young girls and women from Guatemala benefit from vocational training, and the best way to support this will be discussed at the next meeting in Bonvilston Reading Room at 7pm on March 1. **WL**

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Young Saver	£1	£1	2.00%
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Barry paedophile is jailed for two years

A PAEDOPHILE who preyed on an 11-year-old girl via Instragram while posing as a teenager has been jailed for two years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Lee Bateman, 23, was told by Recorder Martin Powell QC: "You had everything going for you, but the evidence shows you have an unhealthy interest in pubescent children."

Bateman, a man with no previous convictions, of Wolfe Close, Barry, admitted two charges of inciting a child to engage in sexual activity. He also admitted attempting to incite a person to engage in similar activity.

The girl involved said Bateman, after contacting her, began to sexualise his conversation and his messages to her became "dodgy", said prosecutor Matthew Cobb.

He said that Bateman contacted the girl via Instagram. Initially she told him she was 13, then that she was 12, and finally her true age of 11 was revealed.

He would send her messages, ending with kisses.

Mr Cobb said: "He asked her to do 'rude things.'"

The girl told a friend who spoke to a teacher and the police were called in.

Bateman had told the girl it was "fun speak, rude and naughty".

A police officer got in contact with Bateman, posing as a 12-year-old. Bateman said he was 16 and said: "Just do it, we can have fun time."

Bateman was identified and arrested.

Mr Cobb said he did not accept being responsible and only when the case came to court did he admit his culpability.

His solicitor, Derek Gooden, said: "He has pleaded guilty to serious offences. There was an element of denial and an attempt to place the blame on others.

"It is obvious he has an unhealthy interest in young children, causing him to send them disturbing, tasteless communications."

But, continued Mr Gooden: "At last the penny has dropped and he is now contrite and remorseful.

"He is someone who needs help and he understands his predicament.

"The best solution would be a sentence involving rehabilitation."

The Recorder said Bateman's behaviour had gone on for some considerable time and he had received sexual gratification through contacting children.

A report indicated, said the Recorder, that Bateman was at high risk of re-offending.

"Only a custodial sentence can be imposed," he added.

A sexual harm prevention order was also imposed.

TONY SICLUNA

AM nominates Julie Morgan in deputy leadership contest

JANE HUTT AM was joined by Jill Davies and Julie Crowley from Dinas Powys to nominate her colleague and constituent, Julie Morgan AM, for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party in Wales, when nominations opened on February 9.

WASPI campaign continues...

WASPI campaigner Kay Clarke.

A MEMBER of the local WASPI action group has told The GEM the campaign is still growing in momentum.

Kay Clarke, a regional administrator of WASPI from Barry, who is having to wait six years for her pension, said: "We have grown stronger by the day and now have over 140 local groups throughout the UK.

"We have the support of leading unions and many more organisations are coming on board, yet still the government tell us no one is waiting longer than 18 months for their pension!"

WASPI stands for 'Women Against State Pension Inequality'.

Many women paid tax and national insurance on the understanding that they would start getting a pension at the age of 60, only to face a wait of further years.

Kay added: "We are still ploughing ahead with the campaign.

"There was a passionate speech by Baroness Joan Bakewell in the House of Lords recently, when she spoke about the suffragettes marching in the streets, going on to say that women are still having to do so – they are the WASPI women who proudly wear the colours of the suffragettes in their fight for justice.

"Baroness Bakewell went on to say that WASPI acknowledges equality of pension age but despite having had five debates on the issue, the government will still not admit that they made a mistake when implementing these changes.

"That wrong decision has had a dire impact on 3.8 million women and their families.

"Their only failing was to have been unfortunate enough to have been born in the 1950s!"

For women interested in the campaign, the website is: www.waspi.co.uk.

ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS IN BARRY

THE Rotary Club of Barry have sponsored the runners-up in the Area 4 final of the Youth Speaks competition, one of several competitions organised by the Rotary movement specifically designed to develop students' skills.

The Area 4 final was held on February 5 in Cardiff Golf Club and was hosted by the Rotary Club of Llanishen.

Runners-up in the intermediate section (11 – 14-year-olds) were the team from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Barry, whose chosen topic was: '100 years after being given the vote, are women now equal?'

Their team was chaired by Megan Leonard, their speaker was Sara Jones and their vote of thanks was given by Fflur Bowen.

In line with national rules, all speakers had to answer a question from the audience to show their understanding of their chosen topic.

Judges were Phil McCaffery and Ifor Morgan from Cardiff Speakers Club and retired headteacher Mrs Pam James.

At the end of the evening the judges congratulated all participants saying that they had set some very high standards.

The next round of this competition is the district final, which will be held in March.

Jill Osborne

AM supports campaign to beat bowel cancer

RIGHT: South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies launches the report with Lowri Griffiths from Bowel Cancer UK.

WELSH Assembly Members from across all parties have come together to stand up to bowel cancer.

A new report by Bowel Cancer UK and Beating Bowel Cancer has highlighted that 58 per cent of people diagnosed with bowel cancer survive for five years or more – and stressed the importance of early diagnosis.

While nearly everyone diagnosed at stage one of the disease survives, this drops significantly at stages three and four.

The Welsh Government's target waiting time for screening is eight weeks, yet over 1,800 people are waiting longer than this – with almost 1,000 waiting over 14 weeks.

Last week an event was held at the Senedd to launch the report, co-sponsored by South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies, Caerphilly AM Hefin David and north Wales AM Mandy Jones.

Bowel cancer is an issue close to the hearts of Assembly Members, with South Wales East AM Stefan Lewis recently being diagnosed with the disease.

Sam Gould – a former Assembly staffer – passed away last year aged just 33 as a result of bowel cancer. Despite his illness, Sam worked tirelessly to campaign for better diagnosis in Wales.

Speaking at the event Mr Davies paid tribute to Sam for his courage in promoting the cause, and said he would continue to push for shorter waiting times for bowel cancer tests.

Mr Davies said: "Sadly, the Assembly knows all too well the challenges bowel cancer brings to sufferers and their friends, families and colleagues – so it's important to all come together and campaign for better treatments.

"I was therefore pleased to co-sponsor the event alongside Hefin and Mandy, as Bowel Cancer UK and Beating Bowel Cancer launch their report.

"While nearly all those diagnosed early make a full recovery, survival rates are far lower for those at stages three and four – so early diagnosis is key.

"We need to reduce waiting times for screening tests – and this has to be a cross-party effort.

"Sam showed immense bravery campaigning for this while he was suffering for the disease and we have a duty to him to carry on his fine work in his memory."

Mum's complaint to police after collision

A BARRY woman says she is very disappointed in how the police have handled a road traffic collision involving her daughter.

Layla Barber told The GEM her daughter Charlie (19) was walking across the zebra crossing outside Barry train station at around 6.50pm on January 10 when she was in collision with a car – going over the bonnet of the vehicle.

Layla said: "The driver signalled 'sorry' and drove off.

"Charlie was aching the day after and we took her to A & E for a check-up.

"Thankfully she wasn't physically hurt but mentally she has suffered."

Charlie suffered from shock after the collision and is now anxious around traffic.

At the time someone noted the licence plate of the car and there were witnesses.

Layla went on: "They (the police) told me they had spoken to the witnesses and that their version of events matched the story of the driver."

Layla does not believe that the police have spoken to the witnesses, and is dissatisfied with how the case was handled.

"I have made a formal complaint to an inspector but I have heard nothing back.

"I really want to get justice for my daughter and I am disgusted at how the police have handled this."

Layla has also been in touch with her local MP Alun Cairns and hopes more witnesses might step forward.

A spokesman for South Wales Police said: "We received a report of a road traffic collision involving a woman and a car on Broad Street, Barry, shortly after 7pm on January 10.

"The incident was fully investigated, with officers receiving reports from both parties and witnesses regarding the extent of the collision and the events that followed.

"The driver of the vehicle has been given a verbal warning, and numerous attempts have been made to keep the victim updated."

RESERVISTS AND CADETS COMMENDED FOR 'VERY BEST DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT'

THE Queen's representative for South Glamorgan believes Reservists and Cadets have 'the very best dedication and commitment' and has honoured their work in local communities.

Lord Lieutenant Mrs Morfudd Meredith was speaking at her annual awards ceremony recently at which she singled out 11 members of the Armed Forces community for their outstanding achievements over the last year.

She said: "Tonight presents the opportunity to recognise the excellent work of the Reserve Forces and Cadets in South Glamorgan. The Reserve Forces have made a huge contribution worldwide over the past year, they are a part of our community and we are immensely proud of them.

"We are all fiercely proud of your achievements and you deserve the greatest credit for your accomplishments.

"The cadets are inspirational organisations. The programme of military themed training, youth work, civilian qualifications and community work assists young people to develop, progress and prepare for their future careers and adulthood. These young people are our future and their cadet experiences help them realise their full potential. They are role models for other young people."

Staff Sergeant Lee Hutchinson from 580 (Glamorgan) Transport Squadron Royal Logistic Corps has ensured the fitness of more than 20 children in his local area.

He volunteers as a coach at Bridgend Amateur Boxing Club and his dedication was recognised with the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service.

The same award was also presented to Lieutenant Jenifer Green from Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force (ACF), who started with no previous military experience to thrive at Barry Detachment, where she has raised more than £13,000 for charity and led the development of young people.

Dyfed and Glamorgan ACF's Sergeant Major Instructor Stephen Thorne and No 1 Welsh Wing RAF Air Cadets' Flight Sergeant Lisa Shires from Barry also received the Lord-Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service for their effort and expertise invested in future generations.

There were also three Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets appointed to the prestigious role for 2018.

They include 17-year-old pair Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major Bradley Cartwright from Cardiff and Cadet Sergeant Rhys Horton from Barry, as well as 16-year-old Able Cadet Matthew Staite from Penarth Sea Cadet Corps.

The trio have excelled in areas ranging from engineering to Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and fundraising for charity.

Their achievements have stood them in good stead to join the Lord Lieutenant at official engagements, such as Royal visits and Remembrance services as the country marks the centenary of the First World War's end.

Almost 100 people attended the event at Ty Walter Cleall in Cardiff, which is a special occasion in the calendar of the organisers, the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (RFCA) for Wales.

Colonel Nick Beard, chief executive of RFCA for Wales, said: "There are more than 2,200 Reservists in Wales, who are vital and valued members of the Defence family. This helps them gain transferable skills to boost their civilian lives.

"The strength of the Armed Forces community is further strengthened by the 4,400 Cadets in Wales and the 1,200 volunteers."

Dyfed and Glamorgan ACF's Cadet Sergeant Major William Peach, No 1 Welsh Wing RAF Air Cadets' Flight Sergeant Natasja Gill from Barry and No 3 Welsh Wing RAF Air Cadets' Flight Sergeant Benjamin Hibbs were presented with a certificate for serving as Lord Lieutenant's Cadets in 2017.

To learn more about opportunities available, visit www.Wales-RFCA.org or contact @RFCAforWales on Twitter.

HM Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan Mrs Morfudd Meredith with some of the award winners.

Say hello to the constellations of summer

ALTHOUGH this month marks the end of the winter constellations, it's still possible to locate Orion, Taurus and Canis Major, containing Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, although they are drawing nearer to the western horizon.

At the same time, we say hello to the summer constellations, Cygnus, and Lyra. This month, they are appearing just above the northern horizon, but will soon rise high enough for further attention.

Overhead, the Milky Way arm of our galaxy rises over the southern horizon and sets on the northern horizon. Ursa Major is almost overhead and the two pointers of The Plough point towards the Pole Star, which sits roughly half way towards the northern horizon.

Well placed now, about half way from the southern horizon and overhead, is Leo the Lion. It is one of the brightest of the zodiacal constellations.

To locate it, instead of looking for a lion, look for a backwards-facing question mark. The bottom star is also one of the brightest stars in the sky and is known as Regulus.

Leo also contains several reasonably bright galaxies, for anyone using a telescope.

For those of you who find it difficult to locate objects, the almost full Moon comes to the rescue on the morning of March 1, because early risers will see the bright star Regulus being occulted (hidden) by the Moon. Look from about 5.50 am.

The Moon also lies near the planets Mercury and Venus in the early evening of the 18th. On the 21st, it is close to two open clusters, the Pleiades and Hyades in Taurus.

Once again, the spectacle of two full Moons this month take place on March 2 and 31 and, for those of you who long for lighter nights, British Summer Time begins March 25.

Check Barry Astronomical Society's website for dates when we will be observing, (weather permitting) in Porthkerry Park, http://www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com

DAVE POWELL

PENSIONERS' TRIP TO PORTHCAWL

ON February 16, the Rhoose Pensioners Friday Club enjoyed a coach trip to Porthcawl for a restaurant meal of fish and chips followed by a trip to the shopping outlet in Sarn.

February is always a quiet month after the celebrations in December, so the members really enjoyed the chance to get out and about. They wish to convey their grateful thanks to The Commission Foundation Wales, who generously donated towards the cost of the trip.

Our club is open to anyone (male or female) who would like to socialise for a few hours on any Friday afternoon from 2.30pm-4pm. We have a cup of tea and a biscuit, play bingo, and generally chat.

You don't have to be a pensioner, just come along to the community centre in Stewart Road and see if it would suit you.

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CARDIFF AIRPORT REPORTS A HALF TERM SURGE IN PASSENGERS

THE first few days of the February half term holidays are off to a flying start at Cardiff Airport with approximately 22,000 customers expected this week.

Trends in passenger travel since the start of the week showed that customers are using Wales' national airport as the departure point to reach far-flung, long haul destinations with KLM, using Amsterdam Schiphol as the connecting hub.

Popular choices include Asia, north America, the Middle East, Africa and China.

Some people have headed for European ski resorts, and a proportion of passengers have headed for the sunshine of southern Europe.

Debra Barber, CEO of Cardiff Airport, said: "We enjoy welcoming excited passengers as they fly off for a half term break or to visit friends and family.

"It's interesting to see the trends in our passengers' travel habits and the popular routes at this time of year.

"It's been an exciting start to the year, with passenger growth and terminal developments well under way.

"Following what was a strong start to the year with nine per cent growth for January and over 1.473 million passengers having flown over the last 12 months, Wales' national airport is gearing up for a busy year ahead.

"As the country's national airport, we're very passionate about delivering a warm Welsh welcome to visitors on arrival to Wales, with international passengers flying in daily with KLM and even more expected when the Qatar Airways' service starts in May.

"Cardiff Airport is proudly flying the flag for Wales every day of the year."

Swansea Building Society launches a new account

SWANSEA Building Society has recently launched a new savings account for new and existing members in Wales following demand from its young adult customers for a product that will help them save for a significant life purchase, such as a first home.

Launched on February 1, the First Adult Saver account has been created by the Society specifically for customers aged from 18 to and including 30-year-olds.

According to the Halifax First Time Buyer Review 2017, the average age of a first time buyer in the UK is 30, which is up from 29 in 2011.

Swansea Building Society believes that limiting the age to 30 on its new First Adult Saver account will significantly help those saving for their first home.

The review also revealed that the average house price in Wales in 2016 was £133,730. The average mortgage was £116,000, with the average deposit £17,550.

The First Adult Saver account limits the maximum balance across all accounts held to £30,000, and the savings account has a competitive rate (1.25 per cent).

Withdrawals from the account are limited to three per year and are subject to seven days' notice, with no access allowed prior to this.

Alun Williams, chief executive of Swansea Building Society, said: "We are extremely pleased to have launched our new First Adult Saver account, which has been specially designed to meet the needs of 18 to 30 year olds. The new product comes following feedback from the front line branch staff regarding maturing Swansea Building Society children's accounts, as well as research showing the clear need for young adults to have assistance with saving for major life purchases or events, like a first home."

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NFU county conference

DR TIM RENDER, director for Environment and Rural Affairs at Welsh Government, will be guest speaker at the Glamorgan NFU Cymru County Conference on Monday, February 26 at St Mary's Golf Club, Pencoed.

Hot beef rolls will be served from 7pm, with the meeting beginning at 7.30pm prompt. As part of his presentation, Tim will discuss Welsh Government's position on Brexit and its priorities ahead of March 2019 and beyond.

Abi Reader, Glamorgan NFU Cymru county chair said: "We are most grateful to Tim for agreeing to come and speak at the conference and also to HSBC bank for sponsoring the event.

"This is a great opportunity for members to get an insight into the work of the Welsh Government ahead of Brexit. I hope we will get a good turnout of local NFU Cymru members. Please also encourage your friends and neighbours to come along."

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The origins of the Ordnance Survey

ON February 8 Sully U3A were fortunate enough to be entertained by Chris Higley about 'Maps of Wales and Maps of War'.

The origins of the Ordnance Survey lie in the aftermath of the Jacobite rising of 1745, which was finally defeated by forces loyal to the government at the Battle of Culloden in 1746; when it was realised that the British Army did not have a good map of the British Isles.

William Roy was largely responsible for the British share of the work of the Principal Triangulation of Great Britain between 1783 and 1853, and led to the creation of the Ordnance Survey itself. In 1801 the first one-inch-to-the-mile map was published and by 1840 the one-inch survey had covered all of Wales.

After a fire in the Tower of London in 1841, the headquarters of the Ordnance Survey was moved to Southampton, and in 1855 the Board of Ordnance was abolished and the Ordnance Survey was placed under the War Office together with the Topographical Survey and the Depot of Military Knowledge and eventually in 1870 it was transferred to the Office of Works.

During World War One, the Ordnance Survey was involved in preparing maps of France and Belgium and then during World War Two, many more maps were created, including 1:40,000 map of Antwerp, Belgium.

A number of historical Ordnance Survey maps of local areas to south Wales and Antwerp, Belgium were on show for all to view.

We look forward to our next presentation on March 8 at the Old School in Sully.

Mike Birnage

Bridge club results

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for February 19 are as follow.

First, Mia Deschepper and Mike Pownall 61.25 per cent. Second, Mary Lougher and Joan Bird 57.92 per cent. Third, Kevin Maddox and Mike Best 57.50 per cent.

LE

Bro Radio launches search for 'supermum'

BRO RADIO, the local radio station for the Vale of Glamorgan, has launched a search for the most deserving or unsung Mum in the Vale in partnership with The Glenbrook Inn.

The Glenbrook Inn has been a vital part of the local community since 1982, serving their famous Sunday carvery every weekend and hosting a range of events for all the family throughout the year.

Teaming up with the local family restaurant, the station is looking to give back to a Vale-based Mum who has had a tough 12 months, or who has supported or given back to their local community.

Owner of The Glenbrook Inn, Liam O'Leary said: "Working with Bro Radio is a great way for us to give back to the local people who have supported us over the years. We've already heard from so many Mums who are doing great things in the community and hope we can give them a Mother's day to remember."

If you know a deserving Vale-based Mum, then Bro Radio and The Glenbrook Inn would like to hear from you.

Submit their details via broradio.fm for your chance to win a three course Sunday lunch on Mothering Sunday for up to four people including a drink.

All nominees must be based in the Vale and entry closes at 5pm on Friday, March 2.

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VALE AM PRAISES WORK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARITY

RIGHT: Jane Hutt AM with Helen Jones and Sarah Duddridge at Atal y Fro.

FOLLOWING the 40th anniversary of Welsh Women's Aid, former co-ordinator Jane Hutt AM visited Atal y Fro in Barry to congratulate the pioneering charity in their work to tackle violence against women in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Jane Hutt said: "Atal y Fro provides pioneering domestic abuse services in the Vale but their aim has also been 'to prevent' violence against women.

"The Welsh Government has funded a Wales-wide project led by Atal y Fro to support families to help prevent domestic abuse at times of stress and vulnerability.

"I was glad to visit and welcome new director Helen Jones to her post at Atal y Fro.

"As we approach International Women's Day on March 8, I hope a spotlight will shine on the work we need to do to prevent violence against women in Wales and the world."

GLORIOUS BIGSWEIR FOR THE PENARTH RAMBLERS

JOY from Penarth and District Ramblers played host to a group of 11 walkers at Bigsweir in glorious weather conditions.

They made their way uphill along the ancient Offa's Dyke Path which dates to 780AD and on leaving the wood, there were vast amounts of damage visible in the churned up fields caused by wild boar.

After a morning break in the shelter of trees to avoid the cool breeze, a further climb through Highbury Wood led to a descent past snowdrops and a glorious view of the Penallt Viaduct, which carried the Wye Valley Railway line from England into Wales in the valley below.

A steep, slippery descent led them through Lower Redbrook for the next climb up through muddy wet tracks in Forge Wood and a smattering of snowflakes on the journey up to Newland.

All Saints Church, also known as The Cathedral of the Forest, provided shelter for the lunch break, with a chance to share its history dating back to 1200. Its beautiful treasures included a 1ft-high brass engraving known as the 'Miner's Brass,' showing a Forest of Dean miner with a candle in his mouth, a pickaxe in hand and a hod on his back.

Passing the almshouses adjacent to the church, following a muddy, sunken track uphill to Rookery Lane, there were a few more snow flurries.

It led to open views of the Herefordshire countryside and hills in the distance, before a series of fields and sunken lanes led them back into woodland for the descent back to the start.

In contrast, William was not so lucky for his mid-week local walk from Porthkerry Country Park on a wet and cold morning.

Four companions turned up and they set off via the Wales Coast Path, uphill through the old Iron Age Bulwarks hillfort to Porthkerry Caravan Park.

Continuing their journey along the clifftop, there was a pause at the southernmost tip of mainland Wales, before heading up through Rhoose village to circumnavigate the perimeter of Cardiff Airport in order to seek out shelter under a road bridge from the rain for morning break.

Heading downhill to cross the River Kenson stone bridge, the Nant Llancarfan Valley was flooded, so a detour by road eventually brought them to Pancross Farm and down into Llancarfan.

Seeking shelter at St Cadoc's Church, the group saw its glorious array of medieval wall paintings, covered up by centuries of lime washing following the break with the Roman Catholic Church by King Henry VIII, after which all traces of the Catholic religion were banned.

Heading along the road to Pen-Onn and descending the rickety bridge over the River Waycock, sodden paths through the wood led up to soggy fields and into Penmark.

The walkers made their way by road, track and field to Blackton Farm and over the A4226 to follow the Whitelands Brook downhill, where a last ascent over West Ridge led them back into Porthkerry Park.

On February 24, meet at 9am at Cogan for a seven-mile moderate walk at Moel Penderyn; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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CAVC students win medals in IT finals

STUDENTS from Cardiff and Vale College have won a gold, three silver and three bronze medals in the Skills Competition Wales IT finals.

The learners were competing against students from across Wales in the contest which feeds into the UK Skills Show and WorldSkills contests.

In the Coding Skills finals, students had to focus on developing software, debugging, testing codes and creating new applications.

They were also required to program a Lego Mindstorms robot. Jake Steen (18) from Barry won silver, while Ellis Brown (18) from Cowbridge, took the bronze.

Matthew Dean (18) from Cardiff won silver in Network Security and Kyle Woodward (18) from Cardiff won bronze. The contest involved securing network devices and restricting access of users by employing various policies, testing competitors' configuration and application skills.

Tomek Pawelek (21) from Cardiff won gold and Morgan Whithear (17) also from Cardiff, won silver in the IT Support Technician competition, where their ability to configure IT hardware and software to meet customer requirements was tested.

Cardiff and Vale College deputy principal Sharon James said: "Congratulations and a massive well done to our IT learners for doing so well in the finals. Seven medals is quite an achievement and shows how their hard work and determination has paid off.

"Staff from the college's IT department have worked tirelessly to train these competitors, enabling them to compete to such a high standard, so I thank them for their effort and commitment. This impressive haul of medals is a testament to that."

Students from Cardiff and Vale College's IT department with their awards.

Bee colonies are getting ready for warmer weather

News from the Fonmon Apiary by Harold Williams

SIGNS of spring are everywhere, snowdrops and catkins.

Bulbs are also beginning to poke up through the soil.

However! Weather conditions are such of late that the bees are not able to venture out just yet to collect the pollen on offer from these early providers.

Nonetheless, the days are lengthening and the bees are aware of this. The queens are stepping up their egg-laying activity to keep the colony viable.

The bees that have come through the winter are now some five months old (that is old for a worker bee) and they will progressively die off.

It is only worker bees (females) and the queen that inhabit the hive for the winter period, no males are required.

So spring is just around the corner, the eggs laid by the queen will become new bees and they will take at least three weeks to become fully functioning foragers.

It is the workers (the ladies) who do all the organising and foraging in a honeybee colony so female eggs, not male eggs, are given priority. Come April and May the male bee (drone) will begin to show.

To meet the demands of the winter period the workers have spent many hours collecting pollen and nectar (it is nectar that is collected, not honey: the bees change nectar into honey).

All this work is not only to provide for the colony's daily needs, but to put by the food that will be required by the winter bees.

Shorter days will kick in, accompanied by lower temperatures and a reduction in flowers. Honeybees do not hibernate! But winter conditions can be such that external activity is not an option, hence there is a requirement for in-house food supplies.

The temperature of the hive is regulated by the bees at all times of the year. Provided that adequate stores are available there is a good chance that the colony will come through, whatever winter can throw at them.

Pollinators of all kinds now face extinction thanks to the activities of homo sapiens (our good selves). Perhaps we should pay attention to the following quote:

"The wildlife of the world is not ours to dispose of as we please. We do but have it in trust for those who are to follow."

HAROLD WILLIAMS

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Council officers show racism the red card

From left: Vale Council staff Sandra Saif and Linda Brown, Mayor Janice Charles, education worker Steve Jenkins, Council Leader John Thomas, council managing director Rob Thomas and Show Racism the Red Card campaign manager Sunil Patel.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council Leader John Thomas and managing director Rob Thomas attended a 'Show Racism the Red Card' event for All Saints' Primary School at Jenner Park.

Organised in partnership with the council, education worker and former Wales international footballer Steve Jenkins delivered a morning workshop to the young people, educating them on the topic of racism through interactive activities and discussions.

Pupils had been asked to prepare for an anti-racism press conference, which involved creating a newspaper name and researching prejudice in sport and wider society.

They read newspapers and online blogs to see how they were written and then had to produce an article of their own.

Barry Town United manager Gavin Chesterfield, assistant manager Mike Cosslett and player Jordan Cotterill also attended the event, taking part in the press conference and were joined by Vale of Glamorgan Mayor Janice Charles.

Every pupil received a match ticket for a Barry Town United FC match in the Welsh Premier League.

Cllr Thomas said: "I was delighted to attend such an important event, in which the issues of racism and discrimination were highlighted to children in a thoughtful and engaging way.

"As a council, we are committed to promoting equality and diversity and recognise the importance of championing that message to the wider community. Events such as this play a key part in achieving that."

Celebrating books and all things Welsh!

TWO High Street businesses will be getting together to celebrate and promote World Book Day and St David's Day on March 1.

Giggles Toyshop and Homemade Wales, both of whom work with The Welsh Books Council in supplying Welsh medium and Welsh themed books on High Street, Barry, will be celebrating the fact that both occasions fall on the same day.

There will be promotions in store and both businesses will be inviting children dressed as either their favourite character from literature or dressed in Welsh national costume to visit their stores on March 1 and receive a prize.

Fay Blakeley of Homemade Wales and Jill Matthews of Giggles.

Fay Blakeley, of Homemade Wales, explained: "With both our businesses working with the Welsh Books Council, it seems the perfect opportunity for us to celebrate books and all things Welsh with readers of all ages."

Barry Men's Forum gets green fingered

MEMBERS of Barry Men's Forum were treated by a representative from the National Botanic Garden of Wales, Louise Austin, to an illustrated talk on the history of Middleton Hall and its gardens at Llanarthney, Carmarthenshire.

It started from its earliest days when the land was acquired by the Middleton family, who made their wealth from trading in shipping and were responsible for conveying spices, such as nutmeg, to many European ports.

The Middletons were co-founders of the East India Company but were involved in a business collapse in the early part of the 18th century. What was left of the business was acquired by William Paxton, from Edinburgh, for £40,000. The estate consisted of 568 acres, including the hall and grounds.

He engaged an architect, Samuel Pepys Cockerell, and a landscape designer, Samuel Lapidge, who was a successor to 'Capability' Brown to develop the hall and gardens creating ornamental gardens, waterfalls and lakes.

Unfortunately, by the mid 19th century, the hall and gardens fell into a slow decline which culminated in the destruction by fire of the hall in 1931, followed in 1934 by the draining of the necklace of ornamental lakes.

The now derelict site was rediscovered in the mid 1980s and work was soon started after purchase to develop the land now known as the National Botanical Garden of Wales.

Barry Men's Forum meets every Thursday at 9.45am at Holy Trinity Church Hall and the next speaker will be Dean Powell speaking on the life of Dr William Price, eminent surgeon and a pioneer of cremation. For further information, call Mac Tanner on 01446 743455.

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Join Rhod on a trek to Nepal for Velindre

Rhod Gilbert in Peru – in February next year he plans a trek in Nepal.

FOLLOWING a very successful trek through Peru to the lost Inca city of Machu Picchu last September, comedian Rhod Gilbert will once again be pulling on his trekking boots as he prepares for his next challenge, a five day hike through the Helambu region of Nepal – and you could join him!

Taking place in February 2019, the stunning ancient kingdom of Nepal is home to some of the world's highest mountains.

The trek will once again raise funds for Wales' premier cancer centre, Velindre where Rhod is a patron.

He said: "Following hugely successful treks up Mount Kilimanjaro, through Patagonia and to Machu Picchu in Peru, I am now preparing for my next challenge: a five day hike through the Helambu region of Nepal.

"So in a year's time on February 9, I'll once again be leading a trek in aid of Velindre Cancer Centre – and you can join me.

"Collectively, we have managed to raise over a million pounds so far and we've had an absolute ball along the way. A hard ball, but a ball is a ball, that's what I always say. If I can do it, anyone can!"

For further information on this epic challenge go to Velindre Fundraising website at: www.velindrefundraising.com/events/nepal-trek-09-feb-2019.

If you wish to join Rhod and register for this event email *info@velindrefundraising.com*. Minimum sponsorship for this trip is £4,000, and a non-refundable booking deposit of £200 will secure your place.

The charm of Nepal is that it is largely without roads, and access is limited to ancient trails linking isolated villages where life and customs have changed little over centuries. Only on foot can you discover the true nature of the country.

The trek through the foothills of Helambu is stunningly picturesque with the peaks of the Jugal and Langtang Himals offering a very impressive backdrop to what is a charmingly unspoilt and un-trekked area.

CAN YOU OFFER RUPERT A HOME?

RUPERT is a five-month-old crossbreed, who is very bright and learns commands very quickly, so training classes will be essential for him to reach his full potential.

He will need to live with another compatible dog already in the home to help him settle into a new environment, is very playful and loves his toys.

Rupert can live with children of 14 years and over who are used to dogs. New owners will need to be around during the day to help with his house training and he does enjoy both human and dog company.

He has a 'very big personality'.

If you would like to know more about Rupert, contact Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725219 or call into the centre at Court Colman CF31 4NG. You can also visit the website at www dogstrust.org.uk.

DL

Rupert is said to have a 'very big personality'.

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Your friendly local **Cloudy2Clear specialist** is Phil Powell and he services Cardiff & surrounding areas.

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or **damaged give Phil a call** for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118**.

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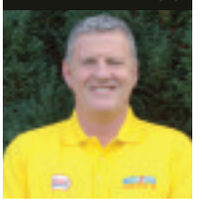

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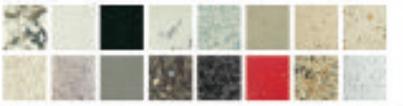

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Consultation aims to find a parliament that works for Wales – *plan for more AMs*

PEOPLE across Wales are being encouraged to respond to new proposals to 'reshape Welsh democracy' published by the Assembly Commission recently.

The consultation has been drawn up in anticipation of new powers given to the Assembly in the Wales Act 2017. The Act gives the Assembly the power to make decisions in relation to the institution's size and how members are elected.

Last week, the Assembly voted in favour of the commission's decision to consult on the recommendations of the Expert Panel's report on Assembly Electoral Reform, 'A Parliament that Works for Wales'.

Following a detailed analysis of evidence, the panel recommended that the Assembly needs between 20 and 30 additional members elected through a more proportional electoral system with diversity at its heart. It also recommended lowering the minimum voting age for National Assembly elections to include 16 and 17-year-olds.

The consultation on the recommendations will run from February 12 for an eight-week period ending on April 6.

In addition to the recommendations made by the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform, the consultation also includes other potential changes to who can vote in Assembly elections and who can be an Assembly Member, as well as changes to the law relating to electoral administration and the Assembly's internal arrangements.

The commission has already consulted on changing the Assembly's name, and as a result of that consultation the name will be changed to Welsh Parliament.

The Llywydd, Elin Jones AM said: "The Wales Act 2017 marks the start of a new phase of devolution in Wales, giving us the opportunity to make profound changes to our legislature. We now have the opportunity to forge the national parliament that the people of Wales deserve to champion their interests.

"This consultation is the beginning of a conversation with the people and communities of Wales about the institution that they want their Welsh Parliament to be. I look forward to hearing their views."

There are a number of ways that people can let the Assembly Commission know what they think about the potential reforms:

Visit the consultation website at www.assembly.wales/futuresenedd, where they will find the full consultation document and an easy read version of the consultation document. They can either email your completed consultation form t o AssemblyCommission.Consultations@assembly.wales, or post it to Freepost, National Assembly for Wales.

Visit the consultation microsite at www.futuresenedd.wales, and fill in an online survey. People can choose whether to answer questions on all of the proposals, or just the ones which interest them most.

Further information about the consultation and the regional events, including how to take part, will be available on the consultation website over the coming weeks.

CREU senedd i Gymru

MAE pobl ledled Cymru yn cael eu hannog i ymateb i gynigion newydd i ail-lunio democratiaeth Gymreig a gyhoeddir gan Gomisiwn y Cynulliad heddiw.

Lluniwyd yr ymgynghoriad wrth ragweld pwerau newydd a roddwyd i'r Cynulliad yn Neddf Cymru 2017. Mae'r Ddeddf yn rhoi'r pŵer i'r Cynulliad wneud penderfyniadau mewn perthynas â maint y sefydliad a sut mae Aelodau'n cael eu hethol.

Yr wythnos diwethaf, pleidleisiodd y Cynulliad o blaid penderfyniad y Comisiwn i ymgynghori ar argymhellion adroddiad y Panel Arbenigol ar Ddiwygio Etholiadol y Cynulliad, 'Senedd sy'n Gweithio i Gymru'.

Yn dilyn dadansoddiad manwl o'r dystiolaeth, argymhellodd y Panel fod angen rhwng 20 a 30 o Aelodau ychwanegol ar y Cynulliad, wedi'u hethol trwy system etholiadol fwy cyfrannol gydag amrywiaeth wrth ei gwraidd. Mae'r panel hefyd yn argymell y dylid gostwng yr oedran pleidleisio isaf ar gyfer etholiadau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i gynnwys pobl ifanc un ar bymtheg a dwy ar bymtheg oed.

Bydd yr ymgynghoriad ar yr argymhellion yn rhedeg o Chwefror 12 am gyfnod o wyth wythnos, gan ddod i ben ar Ebrill 6.

Yn ogystal ag argymhellion y Panel Arbenigol ar Ddiwygio Etholiadol y Cynulliad, mae'r ymgynghoriad yn cynnwys diwygiadau posibl eraill o ran pwy all bleidleisio yn etholiadau'r Cynulliad, pwy sy'n cael bod yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad, a newidiadau i'r gyfraith yn ymwneud â gweinyddiaeth etholiadol a threfniadau mewnol y Cynulliad.

Mae'r Comisiwn eisoes wedi ymgynghori ar newid enw'r Cynulliad, ac o ganlyniad i'r ymgynghoriad hwnnw bydd yr enw'n newid i Senedd Cymru.

Meddai'r Llywydd, Elin Jones AC: "Mae Deddf Cymru 2017 yn nodi dechrau cyfnod newydd o ddatganoli yng Nghymru, gan roi cyfle inni wneud newidiadau pellgyrhaeddol i'n deddfwrfa. Mae gennym gyfle nawr i greu'r senedd genedlaethol y mae pobl Cymru'n haeddu ei chael i fod yn llais drostynt.

"Dyma ddechrau sgwrs gyda phobl a chymunedau Cymru am y math o sefydliad y maen nhw am i'w Senedd Cymru fod. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed eu barn."

Mae yna nifer o ffyrdd y gall pobl roi eu barn i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad am y diwygiadau posib:

Mynd i wefan yr ymgynghoriad www.cynulliad.cymru/seneddydyfodol lle ceir y ddogfen ymgynghori lawn a fersiwn hawdd ei darllen o'r ddogfen ymgynghori.

Mynd i ficrowefan yr ymgynghoriad www.seneddydyfodol.cymru a llenwi arolwg ar-lein. Gallant ddewis ateb y cwestiynau am bob cynnig, ynteu dim ond y rhai sydd o'r diddordeb mwyaf iddynt.

Ar ôl llenwi'r ffurflen ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad, gallant eu hanfon at ComisiwnyCynulliad.Ymgynghori@cynulliad.cymru neu AssemblyCommission.Consultations@assembly.wales, neu gallwch ei phostio atom yn Rhadbost (Freepost), Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

'Women's Voices' at U3A

ON the anniversary of the Representation of People Act in 1918, when women over 30 and 'of property' achieved the right to vote, David Maddox gave a talk to Barry U3A on 'Women's Voices in the Valleys from 1900 to 1914'.

His talk did not centre on the fight for the right to vote, as women in the Valleys at that time usually had much more pressing issues on their minds.

Their menfolk mostly worked down the mines and it was the woman's job to ensure that they had a good meal and a bath to come home to.

In reality, a woman's role was to make a home for others, where families of 12 were not uncommon.

This was demanding and statistics showed the death rates for women at that time were much higher than for men. The constant childbearing and continuous housework took their toll.

Around 20 per cent of women worked outside the home, sometimes even at the pits themselves. Working as a shop assistant was very popular even though the pay was usually less, and a few women had jobs as 'white blouse girls', meaning they were clerical workers.

The major employment for women at that time was in domestic service. Most girls were given 'training' in such domestic activities as washing, ironing and cooking in preparation for leaving home at around the age of 14. Many took jobs away from the Valleys or outside Wales.

Life was not all drudgery, however, and we should not think that women did not have some fun. While middle class women joined campaigns for the Suffragists, the vast majority of women looked for more entertaining activities.

Some became involved in the Temperance or Religious Revival movements, because these offered the chance to belong to a choir and put on concerts.

Women also enjoyed going to theatres, of which there were many. There was even roller skating and Sunday outings to Barry or Porthcawl.

If you are no longer in full time employment or raising a family, then you are in your third age and new members are very welcome.

The next meeting takes place on Monday, March 5 at 2pm in Bethel Baptist Church Hall, Harbour Road on the roundabout in Park Crescent. Contact Christine on 01446 701537.

Solar, so good at Barry Comprehensive School

Year-7 pupils with their solar systems.

BARRY Comprehensive School's year-7 pupils were asked to produce a piece of homework depicting the Solar System, a topic they had been studying as part of the science curriculum.

The young scientists were asked to produce their own 'interpretations' of the Solar System from what they have learnt so far.

More than 40 pieces of work were produced and the department was inundated with various versions of the Solar System. Diagrams and models in one, two and three dimensions, and even a pixellated version made from Lego, were brought in. **AC**

Marie Curie Hospice needs volunteers

THE Marie Curie Cardiff and Vale Hospice at Holme Towers, Penarth, is appealing for volunteers to give two hours of their time to hand out the charity's iconic daffodil pins in the local community, in return for donations.

The charity is hoping to get more people than ever wearing the daffodil pin during its annual fundraiser – the Great Daffodil Appeal.

The charity's local fundraising group is hosting collections in Cowbridge from Saturday, February 24 until Saturday, March 3.

The money raised will help Marie Curie be there for more people living with a terminal illness, providing them and their loved ones with vital nursing care and support.

Marie Curie community fundraiser for Cardiff and the Vale, Hannah Leckie, said: "Volunteering to collect donations in return for daffodil pins is a fun and easy way to get involved in the local community.

"You can collect with a friend or loved ones and know that you are helping Marie Curie be there when we are needed most."

Those wishing to volunteer an hour of their time can contact local organiser Mrs Roberts on 01446 771159.

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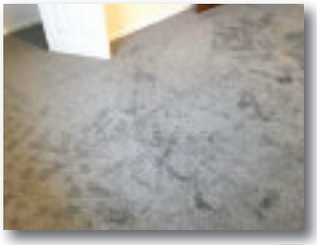

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If you require tracks or poles for your curtains, there is a good range to match the materials chosen.

Geoff offers a full measuring, make up, and fitting service; free estimates are often given on site and come without any obligation.

Offering a personal service, Geoff will make sure your curtains and blinds complement the current interior décor of your home or office.

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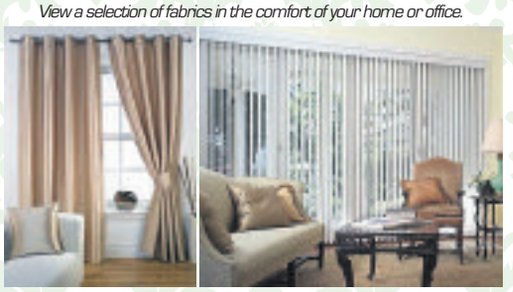

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The Potted Gardener with Sara Milne

Ever thought of growing veggies in garden pots?

ABOVE: Most people think you need an allotment or a space in your garden to grow vegetables, but that isn't necessarily the case.

IF you have ever thought about growing vegetables in pots, now is the time to give it a go!

There is a huge variety of vegetables that can be grown in containers or smaller spaces to make 'growing your own' accessible to everyone. Some of the best veg to grow are beetroot, broad beans, carrots, dwarf French beans, herbs, peas, potatoes, radishes, rocket, runner beans, chillies and peppers, salad leaves, salad onions, salad turnips and tomatoes.

It's just a question of right veg, right sized pot.

Choose large deep pots to grow root vegetables such as potatoes and carrots, and shallower ones for beetroots and onions.

Vigorous growing veg such as courgettes, tomatoes and beans need large pots filled with good compost to accommodate their roots. Lettuce and herbs can be grown in window boxes.

Containers can dry out very quickly so need frequent watering. Beware of over-watering as well. The way to test if you've got it right is to put a finger in the compost – if it's slightly moist just below the surface it's spot on.

Use compost specially designed for containers as it will hold onto water better and have the extra nutrients added to get your plants off to a good start.

Things to look out for when choosing the right one are soil and loam-based composts, extra nutrients, plant food and water-retaining granules. Most multi-purpose composts are fine, or a soil-based compost such as John Innes No3.

For the greatest choice of plants, grow from seed, but if you don't mind too much about the variety, buy ready grown plants or plug plants from garden centres or mail-order suppliers. If growing from seed, check the instructions on the packet.

Seed sowing time may vary depending on the crop but the main growing season for vegetables is from early spring to autumn.

Don't forget to feed your crops on a regular basis. Pot grown veg run out of nutrients due to the limited amount of soil they have to grow in, so a feed of general-purpose liquid fertiliser should be applied every couple of weeks.

Finally, make sure you position your pots so they are in the best location for their growing needs. Most vegetable plants like lots of sun, so it's important to site your containers where they will receive a good few hours of direct light a day. South or west facing locations are the best.

Climbers such as beans or peas can't cope with windy or exposed spaces, so a sheltered spot suits them best against walls or fences.

If pots and containers are just part of your outside space then here are some gardening tips for this month from the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society)...

Sow vegetable seeds and plant potatoes; protect new spring shoots from slugs; plant summer-flowering bulbs; feed containers with fresh compost; mow the lawn on dry days (if needed).

Cut back winter shrubs and keep your eyes peeled for weeds starting to come through; start conserving water, re-pot houseplants and prune bush and climbing roses.

Sara the gardener

PACT MEETINGS

WHY not come along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' which is held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon?

Dyfan PACT will be held on Sunday, February 25 at Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry, at 7pm.

Meet your local officer at **Penarth Police Station** on Thursday, February 22 between 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

A police surgery will be held at **Llantwit Major Primary School** between 10.30am and 11.30am on Thursday, March 1.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: www.south-wales.police.uk where you will find contact details for your local PCSO and you can contact them directly for non emergency matters.

Out & About with The GEM

Del Toro's *The Shape of Water* is a gloriously Gothic and gorgeous fairytale...

by GARETH JAMIESON

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GUILLERMO Del Toro's is one of cinema's more idiosyncratic voices – after all, he's able to dip his toe both in the big-budget world with films like *Pacific Rim* and *Hellboy*, while also making films in his native language that transcend language in the likes of *Pan's Labyrinth* and *The Devil's Backbone*.

His latest film would be something of a hard sell without knowing he was behind it. In *The Shape of Water*, we meet Elisa (Sally Hawkins), a mute woman who works as a cleaner at a government facility.

When they take possession of an individual who is part-man, part-sea creature, overseen by government agent Strickland (Michael Shannon) and Dr Hoffstetler (Michael Stuhlbarg), Elisa begins to form a relationship with the creature.

As their relationship develops and she sees the cruelty to which he is exposed she, along with her neighbour Giles (Richard Jenkins) and co-worker Zelda (Octavia Spencer) vow to break the creature out, a task that is easier said than done...

The set up of *The Shape of Water* is one that feels a little familiar – there are strains of *E.T.* in the plot, to name but one – but don't let that fool you into thinking that this is a film that treads gently through familiarity.

Instead, Guillermo Del Toro crafts a gloriously Gothic and visually gorgeous fairytale of a film, a tale that may kick off in genre mode but soon gives way to universal truths.

To use a water analogy, there is far more going on beneath the surface of this film – every character feels rounded and purposeful, elemental to the story, while the setting of the film (in the Cold War paranoia of the 1960s) lends it that sense of fear of the unknown, with the Americans determined not to let the creature fall into the hands of the Russians.

Yet amidst this dark and sombre mood, Del Toro finds plenty of beauty amidst the relationships of the characters and their lives.

There are some beautifully-realised sequences in this (a bathroom flooding that makes you care not a jot for the water damage that will certainly ensue, a song-and-dance sequence captured with elan), the director focusing on the decaying beauty that pervades the film, inserting the occasional burst of horror while the relationships themselves are sketched with aplomb.

There's the budding romance between Elisa and the creature, played so delicately and gently with simple grace notes conveying far more that any dialogue could.

There is Elisa's relationship with her neighbour Giles (a sensational Richard Jenkins) who is a social and professional pariah – the latter to do with drinking at work, the former, far more tragically, the effect of his sexuality (a scene in a diner is heartbreaking).

Del Toro and co-writer Vanessa Taylor invest these characters with plenty of depth and dimension.

The performances are astounding across the board. Sally Hawkins' ability to do so much with just facial and hand expressions is breathtaking, her turn an exceptionally-realised one that sees the power behind her eyes, her soul speaking out where her voice cannot.

Doug Jones' performance as the creature is equally impressive; shorn of CGI accoutrements, this is a throwback and proof that you can do so much more, and so realistically, by eschewing the computer for a 'man-in-a-suit', conveying mood and emotion with as much power as Hawkins.

Richard Jenkins is incredible as Elisa's neighbour, heartbreaking and funny, while Octavia Spencer may be written a little less than the others but she still shows her class in a winning turn.

Michael Shannon's cruel performance as the government agent committed to cutting open the creature is a despicable one leavened a tad by Del Toro's depictions of him at home, a man determined to better his status in life by standing on those he feels are beneath him.

It's a film that will no doubt bear repeat viewings given how subtly written and delivered it is, transcending what could have been something gauche and genre-heavy into something captivating and beautiful.

This is a film that showcases just how good a director Guillermo Del Toro is, and makes *The Shape of Water* an absolutely transcendent experience.

VERDICT – A magnificent, magically dark story with an engaging and believable relationship at the core, *The Shape of Water* is a beautiful film, a glorious effort from Guillermo Del Toro.

Featuring some absolutely breath-taking performances from the likes of Sally Hawkins et al, this is a film that will immerse and enchant. Essential viewing.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006), *E.T.* (1982)

Barry and Penarth Railway Society

THE next lecture at the Barry and Penarth Railway Society will take place today Thursday, February 22 at the Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (CF64 2EZ) starting at 7.30pm.

David Franklyn will present 'The Super Chief: Chicago to Los Angeles, 2,000 miles all the way'.

Come and join us for an evening with fellow rail enthusiasts. Free entrance, bar open to visitors.

Surgery notice

ON Friday, February 23 between 4pm – 5pm AM Jane Hutt will hold an advice surgery at Llantwit Major Heritage Centre, Town Hall (CF62 1SD).

Rhoose Bingo

RHOOSE Community Hall will host a fundraising Bingo afternoon next Saturday, February 24.

Doors open at 1.45pm for a 2.30pm start at the hall in Stewart Road. There will be light refreshments and a large raffle at the half time break. Come and join us for a fun afternoon.

Ward councillors' surgery

THE Labour councillors for Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland and Court wards: Susan Lloyd-Selby, Owen Griffiths, Anne Moore, Neil Moore, Pamela Drake, Bronwen Brooks and Sandra Perkes will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, February 24 in the Small Community Room, Barry Library, King Square from 10am until 11am; no appointment is necessary.

Tax advice

DO you worry about tax affairs and know if you are paying the correct amount? Are you nervous about approaching Inland Revenue?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a free tax advice surgery at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Monday, February 27 from 9.30am to 11.30am. No appointment is needed; just come along. Call 01446 732385; home visits can be arranged if required.

Equity release advice

DO you own your own home and would like equity release advice and information with no obligation?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a drop in information session Tuesday, February 28 from 10am to 12 noon at the Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed, just come along. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Horticultural society

THE next meeting of the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society will be held at Llantonian Hall on Wednesday, February 28 at 7.30pm.

Studies show that music has quite an effect on growing plants and this month members are invited to a musical evening with Half Tidy, which will give a much-needed boost before starting the hard work needed in gardens and allotments after the winter.

Come along and enjoy a relaxing and pleasant evening – new members and guests always welcome.

Things getting on top of you?

IF you need some help with coping with what life's throwing at you – perhaps you're feeling down, stressed, have anxiety or concerns about your (or someone in your family's) general well-being – why not call into KPC in Pyle?

KPC is next to Pyle Primary School and is on a Wednesday morning between 10am–11.30am to have a chat and a free cuppa with Feliz from MHM Bridgend to see what support may be on offer. You can also find out more about the Finding Connections project running at KPC Youth. Contact Alison on 01656 749219 or email kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

Trip to Disneyland

VISIT Disneyland Paris and raise some money for life-limited children in Wales at the same time!

Tŷ Hafan invites you to join them for the magical trip of a lifetime at their first ever Disneyland® Paris Run Weekend this September.

It consists of a variety of distances, including a Half Marathon, 10K, 5K and Kids' Races as well as the 31K and 36K Challenge, all featuring spectacular Disney® entertainment and characters. Whether you are an absolute beginner or an experienced runner, there is a challenge suitable for everyone.

The four-day trip will leave Cardiff early on Thursday, September 20 and return in the late evening on Sunday, September 23.

Let the Tŷ Hafan events team take care of your entire trip, from arranging your transport and accommodation to securing your race entry and any optional extras you would like.

To find out more, drop in to meet our events team on Sunday, February 25 at Tŷ Hafan, Hayes Road, Sully (CF64 5XX) between 11am and 3pm.

We'll have tea and cake, arts and crafts, face painting and games as well as the chance to meet some Disney Princesses!

Time Banking

IF you are a Vale Homes tenant you can earn time credits by volunteering on Wednesday, February 28 at Porthkerry Park for tree and plant thinning.

Come along at 10am until 1pm; a park ranger will be there to supervise and all tools and equipment are provided, including gloves. Refreshments also provided.

To volunteer, contact Mark Ellis on 07826 020707 or markellis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Mayor's coffee morning

THE Mayor of Barry, Cllr Nic Hodges, will be hosting a Fairtrade coffee morning on Thursday, March 1 in the Council Chamber at Barry Town Council Offices, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry (CF62 8NA) at 10am to 12pm. All proceeds are in aid of Tŷ Hafan and British Heart Foundation. Come along and enjoy some tea, coffee, cake and biscuits.

For more information call 01446 704921 or email juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Cowbridge History Society

THE society's next meeting will be on Friday, March 2 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge.

The speaker will be Dick Buswell of the society and his talk will be 'From cesspit to WC; from well to tap; sewage and water supply in Cowbridge'.

All are welcome.

MP's surgeries

THE following surgeries will be held by MP Alun Cairns in March.

Saturday, March 3 from 12pm – 1.30pm in the Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major.

Saturday, March 10 from 10am – 12pm: this will be a joint surgery with David Melding AM at the Waterfront Asda Café, Waterfront, Barry (CF62 5AT).

Fibromyalgia support group

IF you suffer from fibromyalgia; if you are a carer or relative looking after a loved one or are looking for a support group in your area, come along on Tuesday, March 6 at 10am to 12 pm to Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

No appointment is needed, just come along. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Tele V in the Vale

ARE you living in Vale of Glamorgan? Do you live alone and want peace of mind 24 hours day?

The TeleV project, based in the Vale, aims to improve quality of life by helping vulnerable people manage the risks of living on their own with a simple, easy to use device.

An adviser from TeleV will be available to chat to and demonstrate the easy to use device.

Just come along on Tuesday, March 6 to Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry between 10am-12noon. No appointment is needed.

Contact 01446/ 32385 for further information if needed.

Living Well With Arthritis

A NEW Living Well With Arthritis support group has started in Barry at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

If you have arthritis, Arthritis Care understands how it can affect you and your life and we're here with information and support. The group will include ways of helping you on diet, advice on medication, Tai Chi, Yoga etc. Sessions will be held monthly on Tuesday afternoons 1.30pm to 4pm.

The next drop-in is March 6 with Yoga designed to suit those with arthritis.

Cal 01446 732385 or May the coordinator on 07711 3669456 for further information.

Welfare Rights advice

IF you live in the Vale of Glamorgan and need some advice or help on benefits such as Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance Housing Benefit, Disability Living Allowance PIP etc Age Connects Cardiff and Vale run a free welfare rights service which can help you with any of these issues, and with form filling.

A session will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

No appointment is needed, just come along 9.30am to 12pm. Call 01446 732385 for a home visit.

An evening with Roy Noble

ALL SAINTS' Social Group present 'An evening with Roy Noble' on Saturday, March 10 at 7.30pm in the main hall, All Saints' Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth.

Roy will be talking about his time growing up in Brynamman, his career with BBC Wales and his charity work.

Rhoose Cinema

THE team at Rhoose Community Cinema look forward to welcoming old friends and new this month when they begin their spring screening programme.

Tickets (£15) include supper. Call Jane on 02920 708088.

On March 24 by *Victoria and Abdul* (12) the story of the unlikely friendship between monarch and manservant, starring Dame Judi Dench.

On April 21 Kenneth Branagh directs and stars in Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* (12A).

All tickets £5 on the night, doors open at 6.45pm starting at 7.15pm. For further information see Facebook 'Rhoose Community Cinema' or call Jo on 07986 907151.

Strictly comes to Barry

***STRICTLY Come Dancing* finalist Giovanni Pernice's tour, *Born To Win*, comes to Barry at the Memo Arts Centre on April 18 at 7.30pm. Tickets from www.memoartscentre.co.uk or 01446 738622.**

Classic car show on track for Sully

THE Rotary Club of Dinas Powis is once again organising the Vale of Glamorgan classic car show.

This year, the show will raise funds for the RNLI and Dinas Powis Scout troop.

If your classic car club is looking to take cars to a classic car show in 2018, then you are invited you to attend the Vale of Glamorgan classic car chow at the Sully Sports Club, South Road, Sully, CF64 5SP on May 28.

The Vale of Glamorgan Classic car show is for pre-1990 vehicles only (post 1989 cars may be allowed if considered of interest to the public by the organisers). No tracked vehicles or commercials.

Register online before March 31 for free show entry. A late entry fee of £10 must accompany entry forms received after this date.

Unregistered exhibitors who turn up on the day cannot be guaranteed entry, but if allowed, will be charged £10 (cash only).

To register follow the link: *www.valeofglamorganclassiccarshow.net*.

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Woman becomes boss of the Royal Mint

THE Royal Mint today appointed Anne Jessopp as its new chief executive and Deputy Master of the Mint.

She will lead work to provide Britain with its cutting-edge secure currency and will also develop the commemorative coin and bullion arm of the business.

On a visit to the Royal Mint, the Exchequer Secretary officially confirmed Anne Jessopp's appointment – the first female to take up the role in the Royal Mint's 1,100 year history.

Speaking of her new appointment, the Deputy Master of the Mint, Anne Jessopp said: "I am delighted to be appointed to lead this unique and important British organisation.

"The Royal Mint has an impressive history of over 1,100 years and its longevity is due to its ability to adapt as society changes.

"This was never truer than today, as we reinterpret the Royal Mint for the 21st century, building on the values that have been at the heart of the organisation throughout our history – authenticity, security, precious metals, craftsmanship and design.

"I have had the privilege of working for the Royal Mint for almost 10 years and it is testament to the great colleagues and opportunities I have had, that I have been able to develop the skills that enable me to take on this role."

The Exchequer to the Secretary to the Treasury, Robert Jenrick, welcomed the appointment and said: "Anne Jessopp brings a wealth of expertise to this role. With her decade of experience at the Royal Mint, I am confident she will ensure the UK continues to have the most secure currency in the world, and our coins are loved and collected the world over.

"It may have taken over 1,000 years, but the Mint is now finally led by a woman, and I am certain Anne will do a great job."

What does the Deputy Master of the Mint do?

As chief executive of the Royal Mint, Anne will be tasked with running the Great British institution which produces up to 90 million coins every week. At the top of her in-tray will be overseeing the introduction of the new 50 pence coin, announced last week, to mark the centenary celebrations of women's suffrage.

Her official position as Deputy Master of the Mint is one that is steeped in history. Her first ceremonial role will be to lead the annual Trial of the Pyx.

First held in 1282, the Trial of the Pyx tests the integrity of the nation's coins, ensuring that they are the proper weight and size, and contain the right amount of precious metals.

Every February, coins of each denomination struck by the Royal Mint are selected at random and locked away in the Pyx chests.

In a ceremony, which has not changed since before Henry VIII's reign, the Deputy Master of the Mint brings these chests to London's Goldsmiths' Hall, where the coins are checked by an independent jury.

The jury consists of leaders from the financial world and six assayers from the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths who, wearing traditional red robes, put the coins to the test.

After two months of rigorous testing, the trial reconvenes and the Queen's Remembrancer asks the jury for its verdict.

In May, this verdict will be given in the presence of the Deputy Master of The Royal Mint and the Chancellor of the Exchequer (or a representative).

Remarkably, the history books reveal that if the coins fail the test, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is the ceremonial Master of the Mint, risks losing a hand as punishment.

It should be made clear that in the trial's long history, 94 Minters have had their right hands cut off by order of the King.

However, this has not happened for hundreds of years.

Art exhibition is a family affair

THE current exhibition in Old Hall, Cowbridge is by a husband and wife team from Penarth, both of whom are members of VOGA, the society for professional artists and craftspeople in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Geraldus John is a writer, poet and freelance artist originally from west Wales who now works predominantly in oils and mixed media and whose works have close links with music and industry.

Shirley Anne Owen uses mixed media on paper and canvas to create landscapes and drawings and is a member of the Welsh Group of artists; she has many works in private collections in the UK and abroad.

The exhibition runs until March 1.

'We must tackle the stigma surrounding mental health issues'

ABOVE: Andrew RT Davies joins Andrew Templeton and his team to support the #IAMWHOLE campaign.

MORE support must be provided for people affected by mental health issues in Wales, South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has said.

Mr Davies recently visited the YMCA at their Cardiff base – to discuss the support they provide with chief executive Andrew Templeton.

The #IAMWHOLE campaign aims to encourage young people to challenge harmful language and negative stigma surrounding mental health – and encourage others to speak out and seek help.

Last week in the Senedd Welsh Conservatives tabled a motion calling on the Welsh Government to provide better mental health support in Wales, which received cross-party backing.

Welcoming the Welsh Government's support for the motion Mr Davies paid tribute to AMs who spoke of personal experiences during the debate.

Mr Davies said: "Mental health issues are as important as physical ones – but because we cannot see them they do not always get treated with equal prominence.

"It's vital we change this and provide those affected with the support they need.

"I'm therefore very grateful to the team at the YMCA for taking the time to meet and discuss the excellent work they have been doing.

"I am delighted to support their #IAMWHOLE campaign, which seeks to tackle the stigma surrounding mental health.

"I welcome the cross-party support last week's debate received – and I look forward to continuing to work to improve mental health provision in Wales."

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KARL'S ON A WINNING STREAK AFTER 5 STONE WEIGHT LOSS!

A BARRY slimmer who used his own weight-loss to help others to shed the pounds has been shortlisted in a national competition.

Karl Payne, who runs the Cadoxton Moors Slimming World group, was invited to the organisation's head office as part of its national Consultant Slimmer of the Year competition.

Karl, who has lost an incredible 5 stone, was just one of 30 consultants from across the UK and Ireland to win a place at the semi-finals. Every single one of Slimming World's 4,800 consultants have lost weight with the organisation themselves, giving them a unique understanding of the struggles slimmers often face.

At his heaviest, Karl weighed almost 16 stone and found both his health and confidence were beginning to suffer. So in June 2016, the 44-year-old joined his local Slimming World group.

He started following Slimming World's Food Optimising healthy eating plan and says: "Being able to lose weight without feeling hungry seemed too good to be true; I'm living proof that filling up on healthy foods like fruit and veg, pasta, potatoes and lean meats really does work.

"I was nervous when I first walked through the door of my Slimming World group, but it was without doubt one of the best decisions I've ever made. My whole life is completely different.

"Before I lost weight, I didn't do any real exercise, Slimming World helped me to become much more active too and now I run regularly. I love running so much that I successfully competed in nine local running events throughout 2017, including the Cardiff Half Marathon."

After losing 5st and reaching his target weight of 10st 7.5lb in March 2017, Karl decided to train to become a Slimming World Consultant himself.

Now he supports 65 slimmers at his group in Barry, which is held every Monday at 5.30pm at Cadoxton Moors Community Centre, rear of Edmund Place, Barry, CF63 2NX.

He says: "Before I lost the weight I could never have imagined having the confidence to try new things.

"My worries about my weight almost consumed me and I found it very difficult to do many of the things I used to enjoy, like playing with my children, going out for meals, wearing fashionable clothes, dressing up for nights out.

"Since joining Slimming World, I might have lost weight, yet I've gained so much more. Bags of confidence, a new zest for life and, of course, my own business!

"My consultant was such a key part of my journey that the opportunity to do something for people in a similar situation just seemed perfect.

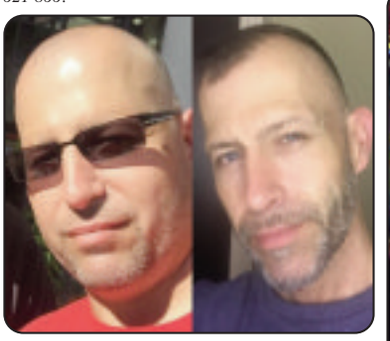
"I honestly feel as though I have the best job in the world, and to have reached the semi-finals of the competition as well is just a dream come true."

Karl's weight loss put him in the running for Slimming World's Consultant Slimmer of the Year 2018 competition, which was open to all of the club's consultants who have lost weight in the last 12 months.

He attended the finals at the club's head office in Derbyshire on February 4 and was presented with a certificate and gift by Slimming World's CEO, Caryl Richards. Unfortunately, Karl was not the overall winner of the competition, but he did walk away feeling 10ft tall, feeling like a winner!

Everyone is welcome at the Barry Slimming World Group; for further information, visit www.slimmingworld.co.uk or call Karl on 07411 621 866.

Karl Payne



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Vale MP defends economic record

THE UK Government has delivered on promises to help finance further growth in the Welsh economy, says Alun Cairns.

The Welsh Secretary and Vale MP said the sum allocated to Wales under the block grant will not fall below £115 per head of the population – compared to £100 in England.

Mr Cairns told MPs: "Some have called for that funding flow for decades, and it is this Government who have delivered on those calls.

"In accordance with the agreement, the Welsh Government have the means to grow the Welsh economy, to attract investment, to maintain public services and to support hard-working people across Wales.

"Following the devolution of stamp duty land tax and landfill tax from April, in addition to the Welsh rate of income tax next year, the Welsh Government will be able to raise more of their own funding through taxes.

"That will make the Welsh Government—and the Assembly in general—much more accountable to the people they serve."

Mr Cairns said that in the autumn Budget the UK Government adjusted the Welsh Government's block grant to take that into account, and the Welsh Government had welcomed the change at the time.

He said the Budget also included specific measures that will be of benefit to Wales, continuing for instance to support the Cardiff and Swansea city deals by investing £650 million over the next 20 years.

Michael Prosser

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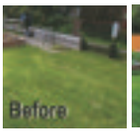

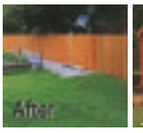

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CASE
Melvin David

Peacefully on 15 February 2018 at Bellavista Nursing Home, Melvin, beloved husband of the late Doreta. A loving father of Peter, Andrew, Tony and Helen. He will be missed by all his grandchildren and great grandchildren also daughters-in-law Ceri, Stef, Gail and son-in-law Mike.

Resting at A.G.Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral service at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium on Monday, 5 March at 11am. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

WILLIAMS
William (Bill)

Passed away on 13th February at home, aged 72 years. Husband of Wendy, father of Garry, Leigh, Tracy, father-in-law of Gareth and Loretta. Grandfather of Keiran, Caitlin and Grace.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, 1st March at 11am.

Family flowers only. Donations, in lieu of flowers to The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

HANMAN
Jean Winifred

Peacefully on 14 February at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Jean Winifred, aged 79 years, of Barry Island. Beloved wife of the late Terry. Much loved mother of Chris and David, mother-in-law of Louise and Hayley. Adored nan of Daryl, Michelle, Keifer and Lucas. Great grandmother of Alfie and Adam.

Jean will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Monday, 26 February. Service in the chapel at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium Port, Road East Barry.

SIMS
Cherrie Georgina

Peacefully on February 15th, surrounded by her loving family, Cherrie, devoted wife of Steve, loving mum and mum-in-law to Justin & Leeza, Lisa, Kristian & Amanda, Joel & Charmaine. A cherished nan and great nan to all her grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Cherrie is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Thursday, 1st March at 11am.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Cherrie's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages to the family. All donations received to support Marie Curie Hospice.

FERGUSON
James Rodden

Passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, 18th February, aged 65 years, surrounded by his devoted wife Julie and his three sons Richard, Anthony and Paul.

A loving husband, father, father-in-law to Jessica and Nicola, gramps to Madelaine, Ruby, Imogen, Leighton and Lois. Brother to Jane and Ian, special brother-in-law, family man and friend.

James will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

His funeral will take place on Friday, 2nd March 2018 at All Saints Church, Barry at 12 noon, followed by a service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Wales Kidney Research Unit.

WEST
Gwyneth (née Doughty)

Quietly slipped away on 13 February 2018 seven days before her 97th birthday. Devoted and caring mother to Lauraine and Robert. Loving grandmother to Gavin and Heather.

One of the last surviving nurses of World War II nursing soldiers from Dunkirk in 1940. SRN, Midwife and Health Visitor to Ashfield Surgery. Lived life to the full. 'Now rest with your beloved husband Les'. Forever in our hearts - Lauraine, Peter, Robert and family. Funeral Monday, 5 March, 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers: Donations Dementia UK.

WHITTINGTON
William Gordon
M.B.E. BSc, BPharm, F.R.P.S.

Retired in 1987 as General Manager at Bayer Miles Laboratories Bridgend facility.

After many years of serious ill health borne with great courage and good humour, Gordon, passed away on 8th February, aged 89 years. He was a dearly loved and devoted husband to Pat for 51 years, a loving father and lifelong best friend to Neil. Loved and respected by his treasured Suzanne and such a proud and loving pops to his very special grandson Jordan, truly a gift who brought him great joy. Sadly Gordon did not live to see his new grandson Jackson.

A Thanksgiving Service to celebrate Gordon's life will be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, 1st March at 1.15pm.

No flowers by request but donations, if desired, in aid of Wales Air Ambulance and Water Aid, may be sent to Adrian Oliver, Funeral Director, 51 Cefn Glas Road, Bridgend, CF31 4PJ.

FOXHALL
Edna

Passed away peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on 12th February.

Edna will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

A service will be held to celebrate Edna's life at the Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Wednesday, 28th February at 11am. To celebrate Edna's life please wear something green or blue.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

COOK
Thomas (Tommy)

Sadly, after a long illness with his children present, Tommy, aged 68 years. Much loved dad of Kelly, Kristian and daughter-in-law Beccy. Adored bampy of Lucas, Maisie and Imogen.

Tommy will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Friday, 2nd March 2018 at 10.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home or donations, in lieu, if so desired for Marie Curie Hospice Penarth c/o the funeral director.

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Family Notices

WEEDING
Yvonne

The funeral of Yvonne Weeding, aged 88, will be held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, 26th February at 11.30am, all welcome. This will be followed by a burial at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian.

Yvonne was a committed member of the church, stalwart of the Local History Society, keen Rambler and mother of three. She died peacefully on the 12th February 2018.

Family flowers only, but please feel free to donate to the Childrens Society instead.

Yvonne loved bright colours, so do join the family in wearing a hint of pink.

FULGONI
Jean

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 18th February 2018, Jean, aged 89 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Tony, much loved mother of Angela, Mario and Bernadette. Cherished grandmother of Mariclare, Gabrielle, Danielle, Alexander and Caterina, also loved great grandmother to Francesca, Dylan and Maximus.

Jean will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the Requiem Mass on Wednesday, 28th February at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

JAMES
John Horace

Peacefully on Tuesday, 13th February at the Anwen Nursing Home, Blackmill, Bridgend.

John (Jim) will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, 5th March, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to Wales Air Ambulance or Dementia UK c/o the funeral director.

LLOYD
John Michael

Passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 11th. Beloved husband of Adene.

Memorial service Thursday, March 1st at Ramoth UFC, Cowbridge at 12.15pm. Family flowers only.

Acknowledgements

DOLMAN
David

Audrey and family would like to thank friends, neighbours and all concerned for their kind messages received after the death of David.

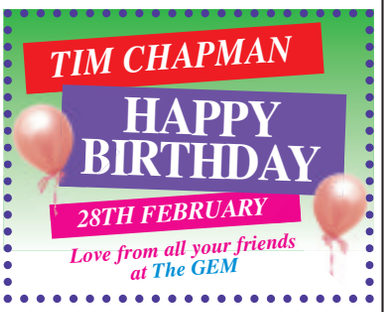
WRIGHT
Alan

Coral, Pamela and family would like to thank everyone for the flowers, letters and cards received following the loss of Alan and to all who attended his funeral.

Special thanks to the Rector and Nicholas the organist.

Thanks also to Andrew and Thomas Brothers for their support at this sad time.

Birthdays



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It was 140 years ago that Penarth's first train arrived!

by Brian Keitch

THE opening of Penarth Docks in 1865 was the first step in the creation of the town of Penarth but it was not until February 20, 1878 that a railway was built to the town itself.

From the station's position one assumes that the town was expected to extend further south – which eventually it did for the new railway station attracted few shops and businesses to its quarter of the town. All that lay ahead was a few hamlets and farms.

When the southward expansion did come it was in the form of residential development, and Glebe Street and Windsor Road remained the shopping centre of Penarth.

The arrival of the railway in the town was greeted with celebrations, but as the South Wales Gazette suggests, people in the 'centre' of the town were little concerned.

The report entitled *Opening of Penarth Railway* appeared in the Gazette on February 25, 1878 and included the following:

'This new line of railway was opened on Wednesday. During Tuesday and Tuesday night the officials of this company were kept busy in completing the necessary arrangements, and so succesful were they that the opening passed off without a hitch or delay of any kind.

'The road over the railway, West House, the station and the platform were gay with flags of all countires and colours. To enliven the proceedings, the band of the Penarth Rifles had been specially engaged, and just before the time advertised for starting the first train, put in an appearance led by Seargent Instructor Parsons.

'The Penarth Artillery Band under the leadership of Mr Paul Draper also attended. Both bands accompanied the train to Cardiff and back. The first train left Penarth at 7.35 and about that time the platform became crowded with a large number of people who intended to accompany it on its first journey.

'A still much larger number congregated on the bridge over the railway, from which standpoint they had a good view of the line and platform.

'With Taff Vale Railway punctuality, the train consisting of five carriages was set in motion. The engine driver resigned his post for the time being in favour of Mr R Forrest, agent of the Windsor estate, who as representative of Lord Windsor, thus had the honour of driving the first passenger train from Penarth to Cardiff.

'Penarth Dock station was reached by 7.40 and Cardiff by 7.50. The train left Cardiff for the return journey at 8.30 and arrived at Penarth at 8.45. On alighting the passengers at the instigation of Mr DT Alexander gave three cheers for the success of the new railway, and three cheers for Mr Forrest, to whose exertions much of the success attending the completion of the line is due.

'The following officials attended the opening – Messrs J Hurman, traffic superindendant, J Edwards, E Edwards, J Riches, Leyshon and E Strange of the Taff Vale Railway, and Mr Allen of the Great Western Railway. The Rev C Parsons, the rector, and a large number of gentlemen and tradesmen of the place accompanied the train, which was run free.

'The guard was Richard Carpenter and the engine driver, Daniel Thomas. A banquet in honour of the event, which a large number of gentlemen attended was given at the Penarth Hotel in the evening and to this agents of the Windsor Estate and the officials of the Taff Vale Railway, who had assisted in the opening of the line were invited.'

The line to Penarth was doubled a few years later – the station expended to no fewer than four platforms on the opening of the line to Lavernock, Sully and Cadoxton in 1887 (plus a fifth – excursion platform).

In addition facilities were made for goods, carriages and locomotives. Now Penarth station has but one platform, but trains every 15 minutes throughout the day.

Ardderchog!

Bridgend Sports junior round-up

UNDER-7S

IT was great to see the rain holding off for the Bridgend Sports under-7s to enjoy a 'tag tastic' morning against Kenfig Hill.

While the overall score saw Kenfig Hill win, a fabulous effort was made by all the team. A big improvement was seen in the passing, much to the delight of the coaches.

The game saw some excellent tries. Ollie Balmer was top try scorer with four fantastic tries and five tags. Three further tries were scored throughout the game, and a speedy run by Tyler Pascoe resulted in a great try, as well as two tags.

Leo showed a great presence throughout the game scoring a brilliant try and three tags. Ellis Kendall was on fire with a great try and six tags.

Bailey, Seb and Mikey were always among the action and defended fiercely. Top tagger was Archie Hall with 13 tags. Isaac had a brilliant game getting 'stuck in' at every opportunity – we saw four great tags from him. Oscar Gee had an amazing game – you could tell he turned seven! He was running quickly, passing well and bagged himself four tags.

The scoresheet is a pleasure to review, a real team effort with achievements from everyone.

Player of the game was awarded to Oscar Gee for his improvement, speed and overall efforts.

Most improved player was awarded to the speedy Leo D'Adamo, who not only had a great game today, but he has been consistent in his achievements and always gives 100 per cent every week.

UNDER-8S

Bridgend Sports 23 Kenfig Hill 28

THERE was some great passing and good tagging all round.

The under-8s played some great rugby with everyone working well together.

There were tries from Dan Perriman, Rafferty Williams, Kayden Jones, AJ Cawley, Gethin Jones, Zack Hughes, Dan Flower, Max Hearing, Harry Treveylan and Rhys Evans.

Player of the Week goes to Dan Flower.

UNDER-9S

Bridgend Sports 15 Kenfig Hill 45

SPORTS took a little while to get into this game, with the bigger opposition using their bulk to break through some suspect defence.

The Mules played a simple but effective game plan, hitting their big players up the middle before moving it wide for their flyers to run in unopposed.

However, all the Sports players today contributed, with Billy, Griff Lewis, Jayden Walters, Liam Sales and Stan McEvoy all putting in brave tackling performances.

With the ever-willing Leo Giraud, Gethin Evans and Harry Mallinson making some barn storming charges, they forced the opposition into dragging a few players in to try and stop them.

Quickly recycled ball allowed the likes of Noah Roberts, Lucas Hostettler-Davies, Oskar Amerein, Ollie Alexandre, Cai Boucher and Will Howe to run the three-quarter line well.

Sports tries came courtesy of a brace from Leo Giraud and a try for today's Sports player of the match – Billy Carpenter-Davies.

UNDER-10S

Bridgend Sports 10 Kenfig Hill 55

THIS was a very hard game of rugby with the score not reflected by the score line against a strong and well drilled Kenfig Hill under-10s team.

The Sports started the match well with some good hard rugby and surprised Kenfig Hill with the first try of the match by Charlie Paget, but Kenfig Hill came back straight away with a few more tries. The Sports carried on fighting every ruck and also won plenty of Kenfig Hill's ball with good counter rucking.

The second half was much of the same, with Charlie scoring a well-deserved second try, but it was fantastic to see all 11 players play good hard rugby and see what the coaches have been trying to do in training go onto the field of play.

The player of the week went to Joe Perriman for an outstanding all round performance.

UNDER-11S

Sports 33 Kenfig Hill 14

A SCRAPPY win today against tough opposition as we would expect against the Mules.

We know the Mules are going to be aggressive but our notorious slow start appeared again this morning with Kenfig winning the contact area.

The game could not have started more perfectly.. Sports kicked off the game, chased and made an excellent tackle. They then turned over the ball and Rhys Anthony scored the first try of the morning.

The rest of the first half Sports struggled to keep hold of the ball in the wet conditions and were second best in the ruck area.

The Mules scored a well worked try, going wide and exploiting the space as the Sports defence were too narrow. Sports struck back with Sam Gardner charging down a kick to score a try. The Mules finished strongly, scoring the final try of the half. All tries were converted 14-14.

In the second half we controlled the game much better with more patience and the rucking was much more aggressive, enabling us to have more ball. Three more tries were scored through Dominic John, Dan Harris and Jack Sperduty. Jack also converted two of the three tries in the second half.

Well done to Jack, Dan, Tom, Rhys, Tyler, Eli, Dylan, Deacon, Curtis, Lewis, Dom, Sam King, Sam Gardner, Toby and Evan.

UNDER-12S

Bridgend Sports 31 Cambrian Welfare 7

TRY scorers for the Sports were Tom Chick who scored a hat trick, Callum Lewis and Cian John.

There were three conversions by Callum Jones.

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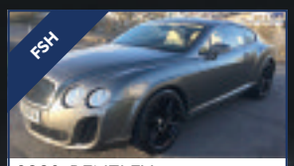

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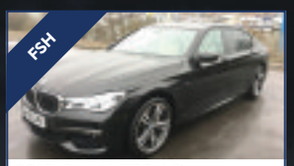

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Wayne makes it 350 not out for Athletic

WAYNE FOOKS, the daddy of the first team, made his 350th senior appearance for the Athletic in the 20-8 victory against Aberavon Quins.

This club legend has the most Athletic appearances for a forward and stands second only to current coach Stuart Morris, who has 458 senior appearances on the all-time Athletic senior appearances list.

Two of the current Athletic coaching team – backs coach Stuart and forwards coach David Williams – played alongside Wayne earlier in his career.

Having played in most of the club age group teams, Wayne played youth before 20 seasons ago, in 1998, he made his first senior appearance. He has played 281 times for the 1st XV and 69 for the 2nd XV.

Wayne has seen the club progress from the old Division 5 through to the championship, and currently doing well in Division 1 West Central, holding off the challenge of many club props of far greater stature than him. Not many opposing props have out scrummaged him.

Remarkably he came back from a double ankle and leg fracture in a championship game at Narbeth two seasons ago. He has crossed for 29 tries and has 145 points to his name.

Wayne remembers playing in a Silver Ball final with the likes of Lee Byrne, Stuart Morris, Robert Coles, Gareth Bartlett and Lee Grabham in the same team.

He is a very popular player and person with everybody associated with club to which he has given so much. This was duly recognised when he was once awarded clubman of the year. He is also among a handful of players awarded an Athletic cap.

Wayne coached the mini and juniors, tracking his son Brandon (now with the Youth Rags) through the age groups from under-7 to under-16. He is now on a second cycle coaching the under-7s, currently the team in which his daughter Lauren plays.

Team manager Paul Hearne, added: "Wayne, or 'Wayne the train' as he has become known to his team mates, is without doubt an integral part of the 1st XV as well as the club. He is a clubman through and through and to play so many games is a testament to his dedication and fitness. He is a secret trainer seen in a gymnasium most mornings!

"Wayne is the only human being I know who can eat his own bodyweight in pies and pasties and still be able to train and play! Seriously, he is a credit to Bridgend Athletic RFC and long may he continue playing for us."

Forwards coach David Williams, remarked: "Wayne has been great to coach. To play in the demanding position of prop forward for so long is a massive achievement."

Backs coach and the only former Ath player with more appearances (458) than Wayne, Stuart Morris, perfectly summed up Wayne: "For me, he is an exceptional club man, a very good trainer who, over the years, has become a cornerstone of the 1st team side/squad.

"A mark of his commitment to Bridgend Athletic, is returning from a career-threatening injury at the age of 37 to retain his position in the first team. He is a credit to our club, his family and himself."

Adrian Burt

Wayne Fooks tackling against Aberavon Quins.

Wayne Fooks playing against Aberavon Quins.

Barry skittles league: all the latest results

DIVISION 1

Bakers Dozen 280 (E Lewis, K James and M Lowie 27) v Fallen Angels 249 (S Jones 26); Pila Pala 317 (J Griffiths 33) v Family Affair 328 (J Waldon and G Taylor 34); Space Finders 317 (H Webb 33) v Sea View Gals 328 (C Provis and T Warner 32); Coppers 341 (D Nesbitt 34) v Red Admiral 279 (S Clements 31); Cadoxton Conservative Fillies 244 (S Chilcott 27) v Barry Stars 225 (C Lambeth 27); Allsorts 268 (S Greenwell and R Dawe 27) v Colcot Ladies 228 (D Mansbridge 26).

DIVISION 2

Castle Bandits 243 (B Evans 27) v Sea View Lights 167 (N Alsop 24); Roller Coasters 217 (B Maffrey 26) v Bobby's Girls 218 (S Nelson and G Toogood 26); Special Angels 235 (B Gilbert and P Grisdale 24) v Clickies 192 (K Watts 24); LaBells 318 (N Cordy 35) v Breakaways 330 (J Swayne and J Watkins 36); Witchill Weebies 292 (R Royle 33) v Rhoose Starlights 303 (D Stradling 36); Challengers 298 (B Griffiths 30) v Witchill Widows 230 (L Spyrou 30).

DIVISION 3

Off the Rails 246 (J Cattle and G Griffiths 24) v Etcetera 248 (S Dyke 28); Sea View Ladies 301 (L McGivern 35) v Rugby Triers 295 (M Howells 29); Up Town Girls 249 (J Hawkins 29) v Hillbillies 204 (M Brinkworth 24); Westenders 252 (C Gee 29) v After Eights 201 (L Way 25); Little Devils 253 (S Harrhy 32) v Persuaders 244 (M Appleby 26).

DIVISION 4

Liberals 240 (R Keene 24) v Odd Bods 147 (K Dutton 26); Livin on a Spare 314 (D Davies 37) v Witchill Wanderers 301 (L Morrisey 34); Nite Outers 198 (V McCoan and M Hudson 23) v Hellraisers 226 (G Davies 24); Guardian Angels 150 (S Clarke 25) v Twilights 220 (H Brown 25); Boozy Birds 308 (S Rudeforth and L Harris 35) v Aristocats 301 (J Davies 33).

Young Rhoose boxer takes record to three wins out of four

LAST Friday, February 16, Rhoose ABC came away with a win from a show put on by Pentine Boxing Club in Newbridge.

That victory came from 12-year-old Brandon Harris (48kg), who was on good form.

Brandon continuously put his opponent under pressure by coming forward in all three rounds.

With head coach Michael Smyth away on National Squad training duties, coach Wayne Cummins was in the corner with the 12-year-old fighter.

It was a strong performance and a unanimous decision made this bout Brandon's third win of four fights.

Rhoose ABC trains Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Contact Michael Smyth 07929 428 240.

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16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRD ISG 2 5dr (New Model), sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 8k, silver.....**£16995**

15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-2 AWD 5dr, Kia warranty Oct 2022, pan roof, pdc, 20k, white, half leather.....**£13995**

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI First Edition 5dr automatic (4WD), pan roof, sat nav, 19"Alloys, heated seats, 3k, white with full leather.....**£22995**

15 65 KIA VENGA 1.6 CRDI 4 ISG 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 22k, white, half-leather.....**£10495**

15 65 LANDROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 HSE 4X4 5dr, Landrover warranty Dec 2018, pan roof, reverse camera, privacy glass, 20k, blue, full leather.....**£24995**

15 15 LEXUS CT200H 1.8 Advance Plus 5dr CVT automatic, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 20k, met white, half leather.....**£15495**

14 64 MAZDA 6 2.2 D SE-L Estate, sat nav, Bluetooth, PDC front & rear, choice.....**£8795**

15 65 MAZDA 6 2.2 D Sport Nav 4dr, Mazda warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, heated seats, 28k, silver, full leather.....**£13495**

14 64 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 TD Sport 4WD 5dr (175bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, Bose, full leather, choice, automatic or manual from.....**11995**

10 10 MAZDA MX-5 1.8 20TH Anniversary 2dr convertible, 17"alloys, aircon, 32k, met blue.....**£7495**

15 15 MERCEDES A180 CDI Sport 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, 33k, white, half leather.....**£13995**

16 65 MERCEDES A180 D Sport Edition 5dr & G-DCT automatic, reverse camera, full leather, 25k, choice.....**£14495**

15 65 MERCEDES A200 CDI Sport Edition 5dr, cruise, reverse camera, met blue with full leather.....**£14495**

14 14 MERCEDES B180 CDI Sport 5dr 7G-DCT, 18"alloys, reverse camera, 35k, grey, full leather.....**£12495**

14 63 MERCEDES B200 CDI SE 5dr, sat nav, PDC, white.....**£10995**

16 16 MERCEDES B200 CDI AMG Line 5dr 7G-DCT, Mercedes warranty March 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, reverse camera, 13k, grey, full leather.....**£17495**

14 64 MERCEDES C180 AMG Sport Edition (Premium Plus) 2dr Coupe 7G-Tronic Plus, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, reverse camera, 15k, silver with half-leather.....**£17995**

15 15 MERCEDES C220 CDI BlueTEC Sport 4dr, sat nav, privacy glass, grey.....**£16495**

15 15 MERCEDES C250 CDI AMG Sport 2dr coupe 7G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty Sep 2018, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, 15k, silver, half leather.....**£16995**

15 65 MERCEDES C250 CDI AMG Line (Premium Plus) Estate automatic, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, 25k, choice, full leather.....**£22995**

15 65 MERCEDES C350 E Sport 4dr automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, silver with full leather.....**£20495**

13 63 MERCEDES E220 CDI AMG Sport Cabriolet 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, airscarf heating, choice, full leather.....**£17995**

15 65 MERCEDES E220 CDI BlueTec AMG Line Cabriolet 7G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty October 2018, sat nav, 18"alloys, white, full leather.....**£21495**

15 65 MERCEDES E220 CDI BlueTEC AMG Night Editon 7G-Tronic plus Estate, Mercedes warranty Sep 2018, sat nav, DAB Bluetooth, choice, full leather.....**£18995**

13 63 MERCEDES E220 AMG Sport 4dr 7G-Tronic plus, sat nav, xenons, grey, full leather.....**£14495**

15 65 MERCEDES E220 CDI BlueTec AMG Night Edition 4dr 7-G Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, privacy glass, choice, full leather.....**£18495**

14 64 MERCEDES E250 CDI AMG Sport 4dr 7G-Tronic plus, panoramic roof, sat nav, 13k, silver, half leather/alcantara.....**£20995**

14 64 MERCEDES E250 CDI AMG Sport 2dr Coupe 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 16k, black, full leather.....**£19995**

15 65 MERCEDES GLA200 CDI Sport (Executive) 5DR 7G-DCT, sat nav, DAB, 18"alloys, choice, full leather.....**£17995**

14 64 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 5dr 7G-DCT 4Matic, pan roof, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 26k, half-leather.....**£21495**

12 62 MERCEDES SLK200 Blueefficiency AMG Sport 2dr 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 18"alloys, 19k, white with full leather.....**£14995**

14 64 MERCEDES SLK250 CDI Blueefficiency 2dr convertible 7G-Tronic Plus, airscarf-neck level heating, Bluetooth, iridium silver, full leather.....**£14495**

17 17 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0 Cooper S 6dr Estate automatic (JCW bodykit) chilli + media pack, sat nav, 5k, silver with full leather.....**£20995**

15 15 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr, chilli + media XL + TLC pack, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, half-leather, 19k, met blue.....**£10995**

15 65 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr, chilli pack, Bluetooth, 25k, choice.....**£9495**

14 64 MINI COOPER 2.0 COOPER S 5dr (TLC Pack)(192bhp), JCW bodykit, sat nav, head up display, Harman Kardon, 17"black alloys, volcanic orange, half leather.....**£12995**

16 66 MINI COOPER 2.0 SD 3dr (170 bhp), chilli pack, Mini warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, DAB, USB, 17"alloys, 8k, black, half leather.....**£13995**

16 66 MINI COOPER 2.0 SD 5dr (Chili Pack) MINI warranty Jan 2020, sat nav, privacy glass, 9k, grey.....**£13995**

14 64 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 COOPER ALL4 5dr (TLC & Pepper Pack) Bluetooth, 17"black alloys, 24k, starlight blue.....**£10995**

15 64 MINI COUPE 1.6 Cooper 2dr, chilli + TLC pack, 17"alloys, heated seats, 25k, half-leather, choice.....**£8495**

13 13 MINI ONE 1.6 D 3dr (Sport Chili pack) Bluetooth, alloys, 33k, ice blue.....**£6995**

14 64 MINI PACEMAN 1.6 COOPER 3dr (TLC & Pepper Pack) sat nav, 17"black alloys, mfsw, 22k, black.....**£11795**

14 63 MITSUBISHI ASX 1.8 TD 4 5dr, 4WD, panoramic roof, sat nav, cruise, 28k, silver, full leather.....**£10795**

16 66 MITSUBISHI ASX 2.2 DI-D 4 4WD 5dr automatic, Mitsubishi Dec 2019, panoramic roof, sat nav, 13k, black, full leather.....**£15995**

14 64 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.0 PHEV GX3h 4x4 5dr automatic, cruise, Bluetooth, met blue, half leather.....**£12995**

15 65 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.2 DI-D GX3 5dr (7-Seater), cruise, pdc, Bluetooth, 9k, black.....**£17995**

15 65 NISSAN NOTE 1.2 N-Tec 5dr, Nissan warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, reverse camera, 11k, white.....**£8495**

16 66 NISSAN PULSAR 1.5 DCI Acenta 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, alloys, red.....**£9495**

14 14 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta (Smart Vision Pack) cruise, 33k, red.....**£9995**

14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta Premium 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 13k, choice.....**£11995**

14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, 19"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, pan roof, 23k, choice, full leather.....**£12795**

15 15 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta 5dr, Nissan warranty April 2018, cruise, Bluetooth, 28k, choice.....**£10995**

15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Tec+ 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, 22k, choice.....**£13495**

14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (130bhp), pan roof, full leather, sat nav, black.....**£11995**

16 16 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black with full leather.....**£17495**

17 17 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna XTRONIC 5dr automatic, Nissan warranty April 2020, sat nav, pan roof, 19"alloys, met red.....**£17495**

12 62 PEUGEOT RCZ 1.6 THP Sport 2dr coupe, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, 42k, grey.....**£7995**

14 63 RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Pure Tech AWD 5dr automatic, pan roof, 19"alloys, sat nav, 27k, Firenze red, full leather.....£22995

15 64 RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Dynamic 5dr, 20"alloys, sat nav, privacy glass, 11k, met red, full two tone leather.....**£25995**

15 15 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Energy Expression+ 5dr, cruise, alloys, Bluetooth, met blue.....**£7995**

14 64 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI Energy GT Line Tom Tom 2dr Coupe, sat nav, Bluetooth, 35k, blue, half leather.....**£8495**

15 65 RENAULT SCENIC Xmod 1.6 DCI Energy Dynamique 5dr, Renault warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, PDC, met red.....**£8995**

16 66 SEAT ALHAMBRA 2.0 TDI Ecomotive SE 5dr (7-seater) Seat warranty Aug 2019, alloys, pdc front & rear, choice.....**£16995**

16 66 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE Business 5dr Automatic, Skoda warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, DAB, choice.....**£11995**

16 16 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4 VVTI 16V Slam 3dr, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, red, half-leather.....**£7995**

16 16 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4 T 3dr, Vauxhall warranty April 2016, 18"alloys, cruise, DAB, 13k, white.....**£8995**

15 15 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 2.0 CDTI SRI 3dr, Vauxhall warranty Oct 2018, 18"alloys, cruise, 23k, choice.....**£8995**

15 15 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI SE 5dr automatic, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, full leather, 28k, black.....**£10495**

12 12 VW GOLF 1.6 TDI BlueMotion Tech SE cabriolet, cruise, pdc, 31k, black.....**£8495**

15 65 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech GTD 5dr, VW warranty Jan 2019, sat nav, heated seats, PDC, 21k, choice, automatic or manual, from.....**£16495**

16 66 VW PASSAT 1.6 TDI Bluemotion Tech GT Estate, panoramic glass roof, sat nav, adaptive cruise, heated seats, 8k, black with half-leather.....**£17995**

15 15 VOLVO V40 1.6 D2 ES 5r, panoramic glass roof, Bluetooth, black.....**£8995**

15 65 VOLVO V40 1.6 D2 R-Design 5dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2018, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, 12k, black.....**£12995**

13 63 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, black, half-leather.....**£15495**

15 65 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 SE 5dr Geartronic, Volvo warranty Dec 2018, privacy glass, DAB, Bluetooth, black, full leather.....**£17995**

16 66 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D4 SE Lux Nav 5dr 4X4 automatic, Volvo warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, 15k, silver, full leather.....**£22995**

16 65 VOLVO XC90 T8 Hybrid Momentum AWD 5dr automatic (7-Seater), pan roof, sat nav, cruise, met blue with full leather.....**£42995**

14 64 MERCEDES CLA220 CDI AMG Sport 4dr 7G-DCT, Night package, Bluetooth, black, half leather **£14995**

15 65 MERCEDES GLE250 CDI AMG Line 4MATIC 5dr automatic, Mercedes warranty Nov 2018, sat nav, 20"alloys, 17k, white, full leather **£32995**

16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr automatic (190bhp), sat nav, heated seats, full leather, service inclusive, 17k, white **£21995**

16 65 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 MultiJet II LTD 4WD 5dr, Jeep warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 16k, red, full leather **£14995**

15 65 MERCEDES CLS 220 CDI AMG Line 4dr automatic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2018, 19"alloys, sat nav, 18k, grey, full leather **£22995**

15 15 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr start/stop, pan roof, Bluetooth, 25k, choice **£5995**

14 64 MERCEDES C220 CDI BlueTec AMG Line 4dr 7G-Tronic plus, sat nav, 19"alloys, white, full leather **£18995**

13 62 PEUGEOT 208 1.4 HDI Access + 5dr, aircon, cruise, 24k, black **£5995**

14 64 RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.2 ED4 Pure Tech 5dr, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, black, full leather **£19495**

14 63 BMW X1 XDRIVE18D X-Line 5dr, 18"alloys, heated seats, 15k, silver, full leather **£13995**

14 64 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Premium SE 5dr automatic (7-Seater) Hyundai warranty December 2021, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice **£18995**

14 64 MERCEDES A180 CDI AMG Sport 5dr 7G DCT Automatic, 18"alloys, cruise, night pack, with half-leather, choice from **£13995**

16 65 MINI COOPER 2.0 SD 5dr (170bhp), chilli pack, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, DAB, 9k, choice **£12495**

16 16 MERCEDES B200 CDI AMG Line 5dr, Mercedes warranty June 2019, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, grey, Half leather **£16995**

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56 BMW 330 Diesel SE Coupe 6-speed
In met-blue, with cream leather 102,000 miles
£5,495

16 NISSAN Pulsar 1.2 DIG-T Tekna
In met red, 9,000 miles, under Nissan warranty
£10,995

RANGE Rover Sport 3.0 TDV6 Autobiography Auto
In met-grey, 46,000 miles superb example
£24,995

63 PORSCHE Cayman 2.7 Auto
In white, 10,000 miles, host of extras
£34,995

63 PORSCHE Cayman 2.7 Auto In white, 10,000 miles, host of extras ..... **REDUCED TO £34,995**

11 RANGE Rover Sport 3.0 TDV6 Autobiography Automatic met grey, 52,000 miles, ...**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £24,995**

01 JAGUAR XK8 4.0 V8 Auto Convertible In silver/navy hood with cream leather, very nice, low mileage **£13,995**

12 JAGUAR XF 2.2 Diesel SE Auto In black with black leather, 39,000 miles **£13,495**

12 AUDI A5 SE TFSi 1.8 Coupe In black, only 59,000 miles, leather seats, climate, start/stop **£11,995**

16 NISSAN Pulsar 1.2 DIG-T Tekna In met red, 9,000 miles, under Nissan warranty **£10,995**

60 AUDI TT 2.0 TDi Sport Quattro In met-blue, 83,000 mile sports coupe **£10,495**

60 BMW 325i M-Sport Automatic Coupe In space grey with black leather, full specification, 57,000 miles **£10,495**

12 BMW X1 XDrive 2.0 DSE In met red, black interior, 66,000 miles, diesel 4x4 .....**£9,995**

11 VOLKSWAGEN Touran 1.6 TDi SE Blue-Tech In met blue, 63,000 mile, diesel 7 seater **£9,995**

63 HYUNDAI ix35 1.7 Diesel SE-Nav In white, 57,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty **£9,795**

16 RENAULT Clio 900 TCE Dynamique 5-Dr In flame red, 14,000 miles with sat nav, pan roof **£8,995**

13 HONDA Jazz 1339cc EX Automatic 5-Dr In met-bronze, only 7,000 miles from new, panoramic roof **£8,995**

65 SMART For Two 999cc Prime Premium In silver/black, 9,000 miles, huge spec.....**£7,995**

64 HONDA Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC Ex In electric blue, 35,000 miles, pan-roof etc **£7,995**

13 VOLKSWAGEN Caddy-Max C20 Kombi 1.6 TDi In white, 90,000 miles, 5 seater with side windows **£7,995**

62 NISSAN Juke 1.5 DCi Visia In silver, 35,000 miles, very nice example **£7,995**

12 MINI Cooper Chilli 1.6 Diesel In red with white roof and mirrors, 27,000 miles high spec.....**£7,995**

65 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Limited Edition 3-Dr In red with black roof, 13,905 miles, 1 owner **REDUCED BY £1000 TO £7,495**

64 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 SE In met-blue, 29,000 miles, practical hatchback at **£7,495**

62 HYUNDAI i40 Active Blue Drive 1.7 Diesel Estate In silver, 68,000 miles, £30 road tax **£7,495**

13 FORD Focus 1.6 TDCi Titanium 5-Dr In black, 63,000 mile diesel hatch **£7,295**

62 FORD B-Max 1.6 Automatic Titanium In met blue, 29,000 mile practical hatch at **£7,295**

66 MG3 Time VTi Tech 1.5cc 5-Dr Only 4,000 miles, start/stop, under manufacturer warranty **£6,995**

64 HYUNDAI i20 Active 1.2 5-Dr In white, 21,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty.....**£6,995**

63 SKODA Rapid 1.6 Diesel TDi Elegance 5-Dr in met cappaccino beige, 49,000 miles, £30 road tax **£6,995**

13 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 Diesel Estate SRi Nav VX-Line In silver blue, 67,000 miles **£6,995**

63 RENAULT Clio 1.5DCi Dynamique Nav-Energy 5-Dr In met red, 49,000 miles, free road tax **£6,995**

62 HYUNDAI i30 Active BlueDrive 1.6D In met grey, 35,000 miles, bluetooth, cruise etc, free road tax **£6,995**

60 FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 7 seater In met-blue 69,000 miles, 2 owners.....**£6,995**

09 AUDI A4 2.0 TDi SE 4-Dr In met blue, 53,000 miles, 2 owners, bluetooth.....**£6,995**

08 AUDI A3 S-Line 1.9 TDi Convertible In aruba blue with leather, sat-nav etc, 95,000 miles **£6,995**

11 PEUGEOT 308cc GT HDi 2.0D Convertible In black, 53,000 miles, leather seats.....**£6,495**

57 BMW 320i SE Auto Converitble In red with grey leather, 81,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,495**

56 MERCEDES CLS 320CDi Auto Diesel In black, 83,000 miles, sat nav, leather seats **£6,495**

14 DACIA Sandero Laureate 900cc In silver, 11,000 miles, 5-Dr, Bluetooth, FSH, £30 road tax.....**£6,295**

64 SKODA Fabia 1.2 SE 5-Dr In white, 33,000 miles, full Skoda history **£5,995**

63 VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 Excite 5-Dr In silver, 41,000 miles, 1 owner .....**REDUCED BY £800 TO £5,995**

63 DACIA Sandero 1.5 DCi Laureate In met blue, 41,000 miles, 1 owner with sat nav **£5,995**

12 VW UP 1.0 'Black Edition' 3-Dr 28,000 miles, £20 road tax, low insurance **£5,995**

61 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Titanium 5-Dr In grey, 53,000 miles, top of the range from **£5,695**

57 MERCEDES C180 SE Kompressor Auto In silver, 83,000 miles ..... **REDUCED TO £5,495**

56 BMW 330 Diesel SE Coupe 6-speed In met-blue with cream leather, 102,000 miles **£5,495**

14 SKODA Fabia 1.2 SE 12v 5-Dr In white, 46,000 miles, 2 owners, a/c, etc **£5,495**

11 VOLKSWAGEN Polo SE 85 1.4cc 5-Dr In red, 77,000 miles, FSH **£5,495**

08 HONDA Civic ES Hybrid 4-Dr Automatic In silver only, 13,000 miles from new, heated seats **£5,495**

62 SUZUKI Splash 1.2 SZ4 5-Dr In silver, 29,000 miles, £30 road tax.....**£5,295**

12 TOYOTA iQ3 VVTi 1.3 In white, 31,000 miles, superb throughout, £30 road tax **£5,295**

12 FORD Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Zetec Econetic 5-Dr In silver, 70,000 miles, free road tax **£5,295**

61 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Tekna 5-Dr In met red, 49,000 miles with glass roof **£4,995**

10 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Titanium 3-Dr In electric blue, 51,000 miles, bluetooth, £20 road tax **£4,995**

09 FORD Fiesta Zetec 96 1.4cc 5-Dr In avalon blue, 41,000 miles, FSH **£4,995**

62 RENAULT Twingo 1.2 Dynamique In white, 47,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,995**

61 SKODA Fabia 1.4 SE 5-Dr In red, 62,000 miles, 1 owner ..... **REDUCED BY £1000 TO £3,995**

11 HYUNDAI i30 Comfort 1.6 CRDi 5-Dr In met-burgundy, 69,000 mile diesel hatch **£3,995**

11 FIAT PANDA 1.2 Dynamic In yellow, 19,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,695**

08 FIAT 500 Lounge 1.2 Diesel In white, 85,000 miles with glass roof, alloys etc **£3,495**

60 CITROEN C1 'VT' 1.0 3-Dr In black, 56,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **£3,495**

08 RENAULT MODUS 1.5 DCi Dynamique In silver, 69,000 miles, low running costs **£2,795**

07 CITROEN C1 Vibe 3-Dr In red, 42,000 miles, £20 road tax, low insurance **£2,495**

12 BMW X1 XDrive 2.0 DSE
In met red, black interior, 66,000 miles, diesel, 4x4
£9,995

13 VOLKSWAGEN Caddy Max C20 Kombi 1.6 TDi
In white, 90,000 miles, 5 seater with side windows
£7,995

65 SMART For Two 999cc Prime Premium
In silver/black, 9,000 miles, huge spec
£7,995

16 RENAULT Clio 900 DCE Dynamique
In flame red, 14,000 miles, sat nav, pan roof
£8,995

09 AUDI TT 2.0 TDi Quattro
In black, 81,000 miles, sportd coupe at
£8,995

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Sponsorship for Barry Athletic cricket under-11s

Barry Athletic cricket under-11s.

BARRY Athletic Cricket youth section will be wearing a new playing shirt this year, thanks to their continuing partnership with Cadwaladers.

The under-11s play in the Cardiff and Vale Junior cricket league. Cadwaladers have been a key sponsor for the cricket youth section over the past few years and Barry Athletic club members will be able to enjoy what Cadwaladers island café has to offer with 20 per cent discount cards throughout the season.

Barry Athletic Cricket Youth section would like to thanks Cadwaladers for their support and the under-11s, with their new developing side will look forward to enjoying another competitive season in the league playing against local sides such as Dinas Powys, Cowbridge, Vale, Miskin and Penarth.

Mark Ellis, junior coordinator commented: "I am really pleased to be able to have Cadwaladers as our sponsor. They have been supportive since day one and we are fortunate to have such an established and successful organisation behind us.

"My thanks go especially to Paul Morton, the operational manager who has enabled this to happen."

Vale of Glamorgan Football League Round up

KARL STEEL grabbed a hat trick as St Athan remained top of the Premier Division following a 4-1 victory over Cowbridge Town with Joe Laing notching the other.

Rhoose kept the pressure on the leaders as they trounced Island Marine 7-3 to stay a point off top. The goals came from a Jordan Owen hat-trick, Nick Good double, Dave Bevan and Tom Webb.

However, the looming shadow of FC Barry Belgrade casts a shadow over the league. Belgrade, who didn't play yesterday, now have five games in hand over the leaders and are five points behind.

In Division One, Cardiff Airport reduced Sully Sports lead to seven points following a conclusive 3-0 win over Cwm Talwg. Cogan secured their first win in four with a 2-0 victory over Cadoxton Atheltic to stay fifth.

Llantwit Major made it 12 out of 12 with a mammoth 9-2 win over Vale Madrid, Gethin Jennings bagging a hat-trick, Andy Shaw a brace, with Lewis Brown, Glyn Davies, Lee Tracey and Luke Beattie adding the others. The win puts Llantwit 11 points clear, but Cadoxton Barry do have two games in hand. BRT Dynamos went third as they edged out Barry Albion 1-0.

Next week Rhoose host St Athan and Barry Athletic play FC Barry Belgrade in a super Saturday.

HD

Latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club

THE latest results for the Barrivale Bridge Club (February 13) are as follows:

The winners for the mixed pairs session two were: 1, Peter Millar and Jane Brook 59.38 per cent; 2, Mick Green and Judith Owen 58.33; 3, Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond 57.81.

The handicap winners were Debbie Dawkins and Dave Thomas.

As always, new members are welcome at the club and a partner may be arranged, if required.

If you would like to join us, ring any of the following numbers, 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592.

Whilst our current class for beginners continues to run on Friday mornings, new members wishing to start will be able to join the next beginners class commencing in September 2018.

Tim and Alan in fine form

VALE of Glamorgan trainer Tim Vaughan and his stable jockey Alan Johns were in good form recently.

At Sandown Park on Friday, Tim's *Tanit River*, a 16-1 chance, landed the Alanbrooke Challenge Handicap Chase, coming home three lengths ahead of *Aubusson*.

At Ascot 24 hours later, Tim's five-year-old *Point Of Principal* won the opening Ascot Schools Novices Hurdle, beating the Nicky Henderson-trained *Dame De Compagnie* by the minimum distance – a nose.

A 12-1 chance, *Point Of Principal* gave Welshman Alan Johns his first Ascot winner.

Brian Lee

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB LATEST NEWS

LEFT TO RIGHT: Jim Hume, chairman, Steve Burgoyne and David Crompton.

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

The winners of the club handicap pairs competition were Jim Hume and Dave Read; the trophy was presented by chairman Steve Burgoyne.

On Wednesday, February 14: First, Dave Lea and Graham Norris; second, Linda Pinnock and Bill Turner; equal third, Tony Disley and John Evans, and David Bowen and David Crompton.

The winners on handicap were Dave Lea and Graham Norris.

On Thursday, February 15: Playing north-south; first, Geoff and Christine Tinkler; equal second, Christine and John Evans, and Rosalie Clode and David Newman; playing east-west; first, John Henson and Dilys Bowser; equal second, Marjorie Halley and Sheila Glass, and Stewart Norton and Ivor Hicks.

The winners on handicap were; playing north-south, Peter and Hilary Rowley; playing east-west, John Henson and Dilys Bowser.

On Friday, February 16: First, Peter Bugden and Linda Jenkins; second Norma and David Newman; third, Debbie and Simon Richards.

The winners on handicap were Peter Bugden and Linda Jenkins.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to start at 7pm, to enable a prompt start, it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, again at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding.

All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

Lessons for beginners are being run by Steve Burgoyne, please contact Steve for further details on his number below.

On Thursdays there is a session run by Steve starting at 1pm on slightly advanced topics, this week's subject is how the auction might continue after partner opens 1NT.

For further information about the lessons and any other of the club activities, contact one of Steve Burgoyne 01656 661968 or David Newman 01656 649138.

A full programme at the Curre and Llangibby races

THE South Wales and Monmouthshire Point-To-Point season at Howick near Chepstow on Sunday got off to a sad start when, in a match for the opening Members' race, Steve Whistance's French-bred *War Path*, ridden by Hannah Lewis, and which had been made a long odds-on favourite, broke a leg after jumping the last fence when well clear of Caroline Marles's 11-year-old home-bred *Always Archie*, ridden by Craig Dowson.

A former winner under Rules for Tim Vaughan, *Always Archie* was returning to the racecourse for the first time in two years.

Nine runners faced the starter for the Confined race and two of these, *Colorado Doc* and *Bob The Butcher* are owned and trained by David Brace of the Dunraven Stud, Pyle near Bridgend.

The heavy ground took its toll of several of the runners, but the odds-on *Colorado Doc*, the seven-year-old son of *Dr Massini*, under Bradley Gibbs, jumped for fun in the testing conditions and came home a distance ahead of stablemate *Bob The Butcher*, ridden by Mr Brace's 16-year-old grandson, Connor Brace.

The closest finish of the day came in the Restricted race when the favourite, *Champione*, ridden by 'Comeback Kid' Nick Williams, of Ogmore by Sea, made most of the running to win by a neck from *Double You Be*, partnered by Ed Bailey.

Champione is owned by The Egerton,Chandler & Harris Partnership and trained by former leading rider, Jonathan Tudor, of Merthyr Mawr, who said: "My 16-year-old son Jack does all the work. I'm afraid to go near the horse."

Six runners went to post for this race and it is interesting to note that the first three to finish – *Way Wild West* was third – were the only Irish-bred horses in the race.

Nick Williams's mount *Snow Puma* was made favourite to win the following Five, Six And Seven-Year-Olds Open Maiden race for which there were five starters, but came down at the 10th fence.

Byron Moorcroft, having his first ride of the season on the seven-year-old bay gelding *Mason Dixon*, gained a 15 lengths win over the early leader, *Light Flicker*, the only other finisher.

Mason Dixon was a first winner for Miss Georgia Kemeys of Bridgend, and is trained in Pontypridd by Kieran Price and qualified with the Glamorgan Hunt.

Mr Price said: "We bought him in Ireland recently and he is easy enough to train."

Nine runners went to post for The Roger Lewis Memorial Mixed Open Race and only three of them came home.

Moral Hazard, a nine-year-old son of *Milan*, was given a cracking ride by Bradley Gibbs and jumping the last in front, went on to win by four lengths from *Pink Eyed Pedro* ridden by Connor Brace, with *Repeat Business* (Nick Williams) the only other finisher, a further 12 lengths back in third spot.

Owned by west Wales area secretary Beverley Thomas and Adrian Simpson, *Moral Hazard*, a 13-2 chance, was returning after a long lay off and is the only horse now trained by Beverley who has saddled many winners in her time.

"He's a darling to train and I ride him myself, but the win came as a complete surprise as he really hates the heavy ground."

It was only fitting that the late Roger Lewis had a race named after him at Howick as it was here as a 14-year-old back in 1959 that he had his first win on *April Pennant,* and that in 1980 he made his last winning ride over the Howick course on *Boundtobe*.

The Open Maiden race was won by Scotsman Mr Frank Michael's seven-year-old grey mare, *Bean Liath* who, ridden by 23-year-old Irishman Shane Quinlan, won by 15 lengths from the Bobby Thomas partnered *Padre Tito* with *Master Hide* (James Jeavins) a further 10 lengths away in third spot.

Bought in Ireland by Mr Michael for a friend who changed his mind and turned down the horse, *Bean Liath* is trained by Kirstin Mellor and is qualified with the Curre & Llangibby.

Quinlin, who has ridden 11 winners under Rules, was chalking up his third win between-the-flags.

by BRIAN LEE

AM welcomes Twenty20 franchise: 'An exciting new chapter for the game'

THE South Wales Central AM and Welsh Conservative Leader in The Senedd, Andrew RT Davies has welcomed the announcement that Cardiff will be the base for one of the new T20 cricket franchises starting in 2020.

The eight teams that will participate in the tournament were announced by the ECB recently and it is hoped will replicate the successful Australian Big Bash.

Describing the news as "an exciting new chapter for the game", Mr Davies said the whole of the south Wales region, including Cardiff, the Vale and RCT, would benefit from the franchise.

He said: "The new T20 tournament has the potential to revolutionise the game of cricket and it is great Cardiff will be at the centre of it.

"Hosting one of the eight teams in the new competition is a tremendous opportunity and we only have to look at what Australia has achieved with the Big Bash to see how successful it could be.

"It has the potential to put Cardiff on the map and bring economic benefits to the whole area.

"This includes both the Vale and RCT, so it is excellent news for the region.

"I am already looking forward to our area playing a key role in what will be an exciting new chapter for the game."

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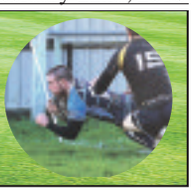

Housebuilder sponsors Cowbridge under-12s

Edenstone's Adele McCoy with Cowbridge RFC Under 12s.

COWBRIDGE RFC under-12s are ready to tackle their rivals after teaming up with Edenstone Homes, who have kitted them out with new tracksuits.

Cowbridge RFC has large mini and junior sections, running teams from under-sevens through to under-16s, with all age groups having between 25 and 35 players.

Housebuilder Edenstone was game enough to team up with the under-12s, who have been playing together for six years, having started out as under-7s.

Rhys Phillips, one of the coaches, said: "There are no leagues at this age grade rugby. However, we are Cardiff & District Champions for the past two years and have qualified for the quarter finals of the Land Rover Cardiff Blues Cup which is for teams in the Cardiff Blues region.

"The sponsorship from Edenstone is a huge boost for the players as because they look like a professional squad of players it gives them a lift before big games."

Home games take place in Cowbridge, not far from from Edenstone's Llanfair Meadows development, a development of just 20 properties.

Andrea Nippe, sales director for Edenstone Homes, said: "Cowbridge RFC are doing a fantastic job in encouraging young people in the area to stay fit and active. When we heard that they were looking for sponsors we were happy to be able to help."

To find out more about Cowbridge RFC see cowbridge.rfc.wales or for information about Edenstone's homes at Llanfair Meadows see edenstonehomes.com/aberthin-cowbridge.

SPARKLING SECOND HALF AS COWBRIDGE SECURE BONUS POINT VICTORY

COWBRIDGE travelled to Old Penarthians last Saturday looking for a convincing victory to keep up the promotion drive.

The home side kicked off on a sunny, breezy afternoon and the first 20 minutes involved a lot of effort from both sides, and plenty of penalties but little progress, although the dominant Cowbridge scrum augured well with front row Dani John, Craig Boxall and Brad Langenhoven and locks Kieren David and James Anderson proving a real handful.

It was from an Old Pens scrum that Cowbridge scored the first try, shoving them off their own ball and quickly releasing the ball to wing Will Williams who left the defence tackling fresh air to score a lovely try, expertly converted by full back Ben Wright.

Further powerful Cowbridge scrummaging and a fine kick by fly half Tom James took Cowbridge up to the 22. A take and drive by no 8 Ross Gibbon was thwarted by a penalty followed by an extra 10 metres and a totally unnecessary Cowbridge yellow card.

It was now the home team's turn to put on the pressure, but a big relieving kick from Wright put Cowbridge on the front foot and, back to 15 on the field they were unlucky not to grab a second try just before half time.

Also unlucky was the Old Pens hooker who received a yellow for a high tackle just before the half time whistle.

Half time: Old Penarthians 0 Cowbridge 7

Cowbridge secured the ball from the second half kick-off and live wire scrum-half Hywel Williams fed Wright and his giant up and under was caught by David and the pack drove into Old Pens 22.

Cowbridge opted for a scrum from a penalty and another scrum from another penalty. Scrum half Williams took the ball on from the base of the scrum and from the ensuing ruck tireless flanker Joe Davies picked and went over for a try with Wright adding the extras.

Despite all the Cowbridge pressure it was Old Pens who scored next, charging over for a try following several forward drives. Rhys Price replaced Brad in the front row and Pat George came on for an exhausted Leigh Davies.

The fresh legs seemed to spur on Cowbridge. With captain Richie Howson leading from the front, another great scrum released the backs but it was a superb pick up by Dani John that kept up the momentum.

A second Old Pens yellow card and Cowbridge took a scrum only to be penalised, but soon regained the ball from another big up and under from Wright, and some clever interpassing involving wing Tom Harrison and centres George and Alex Guard sent Price charging up the middle before offloading to Tom James for Cowbridge's third try after 20 minutes, converted again by Wright.

It was another 13 minutes before Cowbridge secured the bonus point with Jack Anderson powering away from a lineout with a 30-metre burst down the touchline, passing inside to the supporting Joe Davies who stormed over for his second try, followed by Ben Wright's fourth conversion.

Dave Breed now joined the fray and the fifth try wasn't long coming as Alex Guard put in an inch-perfect chip over the defence for Hywel Williams to touch down in the corner. Amazingly, Wright missed the conversion.

With just a couple of minutes left a big break by Joe Davies released veteran wing Will Williams to scramble over for his second try, the scoring completed by Wright's best conversion of the day.

From the kick-off Craig Boxall charged up the middle of the pitch, another break by Joe Davies who passed to Williams but the ball went loose and the final whistle went.

Final score: Old Penarthians 5 Cowbridge 40

A great second half performance by Cowbridge with a high tempo game. The boys were shattered at the end, an indication of the effort put in by the whole squad. The scrummaging was outstanding giving a great platform for the six tries.

Thanks to Old Penarthians for their hospitality after the game and well done to Ben Wright for arranging transport for a blindfolded Richie Howson to finally arrive at his surprise 30th party at the club.

Also congratulations to Will Williams for his selection for Welsh Crawshays last week against Oxford University. Well deserved at this point in his career. Will came on with 30 minutes to go and scored a try..

This weekend it's back to the Six Nations. The club will be open for both games on Saturday – Wales v Ireland at 2.15pm followed by Scotland v England at 4.45. Get there early for a grandstand seat and a great atmosphere.

The following week we are home against Canton and on March 10 home against Treherbert as Wales v Italy is on the Sunday. There will be a bus (numbers permitting) going from the club to Cardiff for the Italy game – just add your name to the list on the club noticeboard. Likewise for the French match on March 17.

The Youth are due to play Pontypridd at home this Saturday, followed by an away fixture at Merthyr the following Saturday.

RV/RK/GT

Cowbridge Darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, February 13, a full programme of league matches was completed.

At the top of the table, the Edmondes B beat the Edmondes A 7-2 and Llanharry beat the Farmers' Arms 6-3. Notable performances were Paul Butcher (Edmondes B) hitting a 180 and Nick Smith (Edmondes A) who hit a number of high outs: 63, 86 and 72 (bull finish).

The Victoria Inn beat the Red Lion Inn 9-0 and in the two closest matches of the evening, the Highwayman Inn beat the Six Bells Inn and the Hairy Farmers beat the One Town Hall Square, both by the 5-4 score-line.

Present league standings, after 13 weeks, are: Edmondes B (84 points), Llanharry (81), Highwayman Inn (72), Six Bells Inn (70), Hairy Farmers (65), Edmondes C (60), Edmondes A (56), Victoria Inn (55), Farmers Arms (45), One Town Hall Square (26) and Red Lion Inn (10).

Next week, Tuesday, February 27, the next rounds of the Commemorative Cup Competition will be played at the Six Bells Inn.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information, e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

COWBRIDGE UNDER-12S RATTLE UP 50 POINTS

COWBRIDGE under-12s travelled east last weekend, visiting Rhymney in the Gwent Valley for the first time.

A warm welcome awaited Cowbridge albeit in inclement weather with a heavy pitch. The conditions notwithstanding, Cowbridge broke into their stride early on.

Tight play by the pack secured the platform and the backs worked the ball free for the wingers Ollie Stancombe and Owen Francis to show their paces. James Collingridge converted both tries for a 14-0 lead.

Again, from the re-start Cowbridge dominated in the pack and a period of pressure had the half backs controlling the play and James Collingridge putting in a cute chip over the defensive line for Harry New to chase and score in the corner.

Jake Davies broke through from centre to score and George Tuckley capitalised on a turn-over in open play to stretch the lead further.

With one further successful conversion from James Collingridge, Cowbridge led 31-0 at the half.

Full credit to Rhymney, who continued to take the game to Cowbridge, a period of pressure from the hosts was broken with a clinical counter-ruck and the Cowbridge backline set into motion, with Ollie Stancombe and then Will Brenan the beneficiaries on the wing.

Rhymney were rewarded for their endeavour taking a consolation try. Cowbridge weren't finished for the day, with some fine handling in difficult conditions and both Owen Francis and James Lord running strong lines, breaking into cadence and going over for the tries. Final score 51-5 to Cowbridge.

A strong display as Cowbridge build for their quarter final against Builth Wells in the Blues Cup.

Well done boys, the players and coaches would welcome all the support possible at home on the March 4 for their quarter final encounter.

KN

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC GET BACK TO WINNING WAYS

LLANTWIT Major got back to winning ways after the first Six Nations break on Saturday as they recorded a comfortable 34-7 win against Ferndale in this league encounter.

Llantwit, chasing Cowbridge in the league, led 22–0 at the interval, with tries by Dan Bawden, Shun Shea and outside half Laurence Howley.

Howley also contributed two conversions and a penalty.

In the second half, Llantwit made the game safe with two firther tries from centre Kian Spillane and full back Rhys Balmont.

Balmont's try was converted.

Man of the match was youth player Ieuan Moss who, on making his debut for the senior side, showed great maturity with an assured performance on the wing.

Further mention goes to Huw Williams, who had a great game at hooker, often making the crucial link in attacking play.

The next two games will be much tougher affairs as the Llantonians take on the two teams above them in the league as they face Caerau Ely away, followed by Ynysowen back at The Rec.

They also picked up two yellow cards in this game, which is something the coaches will want to limit.

First though, there is another break this week for the Six Nations as Wales take on Ireland; all games will be shown at the clubhouse with members and non-members warmly welcomed.